

Mrs Williams resigns from Labour's national executive

Mrs Shirley Williams resigned from the national executive of the Labour Party last night with the words: "The party I loved and worked for over so many years no longer exists." Our Political Editor writes that she and her fellow dissidents will probably leave the party formally, or resign Labour's whip, in about a month's time.

Mr Foot's compromises attacked

Fred Emery, Political Editor, says that "the party I loved and worked for over so many years no longer exists" is a phrase which Mrs Williams used last night when she resigned from the Labour Party's national executive committee. He says that Mrs Williams' resignation was a major blow to Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition. He says that Mrs Williams' resignation was a major blow to Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition. He says that Mrs Williams' resignation was a major blow to Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition.

'The party I loved and worked for no longer exists'

Mrs Shirley Williams' resignation from the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party was a major blow to Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition. He says that Mrs Williams' resignation was a major blow to Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition. He says that Mrs Williams' resignation was a major blow to Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition.

Loyalists to be asked for pledge of resistance

From David Nicholson-Lord Belfast
In a controversial re-enactment of the history of the Democratic Unionist Party of the Rev Ian Paisley is to hold 11 mass rallies throughout Ulster at which thousands of "loyalists" will be asked to pledge themselves to defend the union with Britain and resist the "process of all-Ireland integration".



Mr Paisley displaying his "Ulster's Declaration" yesterday.

Premier resigns after new Solidarity crisis shakes Poland

Warsaw, Feb 9. — Mr Jozef Pieluski, the Polish Prime Minister, resigned at the end of the Communist Party Central Committee plenary session tonight, the official news agency PAP announced. It said General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Defence Minister, would be proposed to take his place.—UPI.



Polish economic hopes, page 5

Murdoch 'Times' bid progresses well

By Paul Routledge
Mr Rupert Murdoch's proposed takeover of Times Newspapers is progressing well, it was learned last night when he reached an agreement in principle with newspaper union leaders on three key issues: redundancies, wage-increases and a dispute procedure to avert industrial action.

Setback for Britons in Iran after delay in deporting US woman

From Tony Allaway Tehran, Feb 9
Iranian authorities kept diplomats guessing today about when they would release the four British women held in Iran after being assured by Iranian officials that they would be released.

Yorkshire miners set for action against pit closure

The first test of coalfield militancy over threatened closure of pits may come within 10 days. Yorkshire miners' leaders are completing plans for industrial action, including a strike of flying pickets to other coalfields if the national Coal Board carries out its proposal to shut Ormeau colliery, near Sheffield. Sir Derek, NCB chairman, will explain to executives the industry's three unions today the full scale of the financial crisis.



Bill Haley dies at 55

Bill Haley, who with his band, the Comets, recorded the rock classic, "Rock Around the Clock", died at his home in Harlingen, Texas, aged 55. With his synthesis of cowboy themes and blues rhythms his music swept teenage Britain and America, notably in the 1955 film The Blackboard Jungle.

SAS criticism rejected

A suggestion by a Labour MP in the Commons that the Special Air Service Regiment soldiers who lifted the siege of the Iranian Embassy in London summarily executed terrorists after they had given themselves up horrified the Attorney General, who said the matter was considered with care both at the Central Criminal Court and the House of Commons.



Cartoon illustration of a man drinking.

Protection for soccer managers

By Norman Fox Football Correspondent
A "gentleman's agreement" intended to stop the endless round of dismissals among managers was decided by Football League club chairmen who met for an extraordinary general meeting in Solihull yesterday. They also elected to change the points scoring system next season, giving three for a win instead of two, but retaining the old system on the transfer market were toned down.

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Ilopoeful fishing talks

Optimistic words from France raised hopes for the EEC agriculture ministers will be able to break the deadlock today in the negotiations for a new Community fisheries policy. Exploratory talks in Brussels between the British, German, and French ministers appeared to suggest that there is room for compromise on the coastal fishing issue.

BL disruption threat

Leaders of four white-collar unions at BL threatened to recommend an overtime ban and other sanctions after the failure of talks on planty manning reductions. The company said it expected to go ahead with the first compulsory redundancies in about two weeks.

Kampala arms raids

Units of the Uganda Freedom Movement, which aim to topple President Obote, stormed three Kampala police stations and carried off their complete armories.

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Ottawa: The Premiers of six Canadian provinces met to plan resistance to Mr Trudeau's constitutional reforms. 5

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HOME NEWS

D'Oyly Carte singers petition Lords over refusal of grant

Members of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company drove in cortège through London on an open-topped bus yesterday to deliver petitions at the Arts Council and Parliament protesting at the council's refusal of a grant.

Mr Frederic Lloyd, general manager, said the company could close at the end of the next provincial tour, on July 18, unless sufficient funds could be raised soon.

D'Oyly Carte is losing an average of £5,000 a week, despite nearly full houses at Sadler's Wells Theatre, and it is expected to be in debt by the end of March.

Announcing the council's decision, Mr Kenneth Robinson, chairman, said the company's artistic standards were less than adequate.

An independent working party last year recommended an annual grant of between £10,000 and £100,000 for D'Oyly Carte.

Mr Robert Scott, administrator of the Palace Theatre, Manchester, who was chairman of the working party, said: "The major cities will blame the Arts Council if D'Oyly Carte closes."

He estimated that several provincial theatres would lose between 5 and 10 per cent of their business if the company stopped touring. The company spends 33 weeks every year on tour. It has never received public money.

The working party's report, published yesterday, found that D'Oyly Carte's performances were "wooden and tired" with "excessive devotion to the printed word" and some of the older members of the company "are due for a rest".

It is not an argument that much impresses the company's many supporters. More than 2,500 of them signed the petition.

Two illustrious supporters were at the House of Lords to greet the "peers" from London and receive their petition. Sir Harold Wilson, a trustee of the company, and Lord Elwyn-Jones took part in a rendering of "Loudly let the trumpet bray".

Sir Harold said he was tabling a Commons motion regretting the council's decision.

Lord Elwyn-Jones said: "It is a scandal that this great English institution should be imperilled by the meanness of a public body."



Sir Harold Wilson, a trustee of the D'Oyly Carte company greeting costumed opera singers outside Parliament yesterday.

Arts minister deplores lack of warning in withdrawal of subsidies

Kenneth Costling

Mr Paul Channon, Minister of the Arts, wrote yesterday to Mr Kenneth Robinson, chairman of the Arts Council, expressing concern at the way recent cuts in grants to some arts companies were made.

The matter was raised by MPs at the first arts question-time last week and Mr Channon has been in talks with Mr Robinson on Wednesday.

In an interview yesterday the minister said the disquiet had not been so much over the distribution of grants as over the fact that more warning could have been given to the 11 companies whose financial support was withdrawn.

Mr Channon said: "After my question time there was so much interest on all sides of the House that Mr Robinson and I had a long talk at my office two days later."

"I have now written to him about it; it is not for me to say whether the Arts Council was right or wrong in deciding, for artistic reasons, to give more to some, less to others."

Mr Channon was appointed a little more than a month ago when the Prime Minister replaced Mr Norman St John-Stevas.

Apart from "reading in", he has given evidence to a select committee, delivered the first monthly Commons ques-

tions, seen the chairman or directors of all the national museums and galleries, and given many interviews.

Today he submits himself to the traditional "photo-call" faced by all new ministers.

He has also had hundreds of letters from most parts of the country. "You are the first person," he said with a smile, "who has not asked me for £10m."

Last weekend he was in Paris for the much acclaimed opening of Britten's *Peter Grimes* and the Gainsborough Exhibition and he was impressed by the great amount of British activity going on there. He also had talks with the Ministry of Culture.

Mr Channon wants to see more cultural exchanges, especially on a regional basis. "Grenoble might come to Cheshire, for example." And he is about to make an extensive tour of the regions to talk to arts associations and similar bodies about their difficulties.

He is determined, as was his predecessor, to save the Victoria and Albert Museum's art slides collection, and ways of doing that are still being examined; and he is as dedicated to public funding of the arts. But there are several other things he would like to do.

"I want to give some more cohesion to the museums' arrangements in this country; their structure is a little bit out of date."

"Secondly, and this came up at the select committee, I have

to ask what is now the right course for the national heritage and try to do a bit to help that."

"Third, I want to see if we could not harness the libraries to do more at this time of the great explosion in information retrieval; so, more attention to the library services."

"And fourth at a time of very difficult economic circumstances I would like to do my best to keep the arts afloat. There have been great strides in recent years. When cuts are being made all round, it is not possible for one area to expand while everything else is contracting."

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Thousands walk as dispute stops buses

Thousands of people in Bristol walked or got lifts to work in the rain yesterday because the city's bus services were again at a standstill because of the dispute over increased fares.

Union and management talks were taking place in an attempt to end the clash, which has led so far to the dismissal of nine busmen and the suspension of about a hundred others.

As crews arrived for shifts yesterday they were asked again if they would implement the new fares. They refused, leaving buses idle and commuter traffic congesting roads to the city.

The trouble began on Sunday when the fare rises, of between 1p and 8p on most routes, were due to start. As busmen refused to implement them they were suspended, and nine were dismissed after disciplinary hearings.

The increases are part of Bristol Omnibuses' plan to reduce a deficit of more than £2m. The union says that if the increases are implemented they will make Bristol fares the highest in Britain.

The union says the increases would drive passengers away and worsen the financial crisis. They have called for the reinstatement of their members and a return to the old fare structure.

Reprieve for ferry service to Belfast

From a Staff Reporter

A conditional reprieve by the P & O company for the troubled ferry service between Liverpool and Belfast was announced yesterday. The company is to review operations in the autumn, after a sales campaign designed to increase traffic by the 15 per cent needed to break even.

Mr Ian Church, executive chairman of P & O Ferries, described the reprieve as an act of faith by the company; but said that both industrial relations and the service's poor record of reliability would have to improve dramatically.

"Everybody has got to understand that we have only one source of revenue, and that is our clients. We cannot let them down without letting ourselves down," he said.

Although it is not regarded by the Government as a strategic link, the line's unreliability has led to much traffic, particularly freight, switching to the routes between Larne and the Scottish ports.

Arbitration hope: The prospect of arbitration in the seamen's dispute was revived last night despite disagreement between leaders of the industry's two sides about possible terms of reference (our Labour Staff writes). Failing a real peace move very soon the National Union of Seamen is likely to consider spreading the dispute

Cave team deny intention to preempt official study

By Norman Hammond

Archaeology Correspondent

A group of archaeologists who claimed anonymously at the weekend that "Stone Age Art" in a cave at Symonds Yat, Hereford and Worcester was the result of natural fissuring said yesterday that their visit had been private. They had not intended that it be reported in the press before an official inspection on Thursday.

Dr Ruth Whitcombe, of Lancaster University, speaking

also for Dr Roger Jacobi, of the same department, and Dr Stephen Green, of University College, Cardiff, said they did not know that the cave was on Forestry Commission land, and that permission was needed for access.

She was sure, however, that the group had found the place in the cave where the engravings had been reported by Mr Thomas Rogers in the January issue of the *Illustrated London News*.

Wider race incidents study sought

By Our Political Staff

A call for the Home Secretary's inquiry into racist incidents to include attacks on all groups, including white people and those whose cottages were burnt down in Wales, as made last night by Mrs Jill Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston.

An "increasing number" of white people were being harassed on a racial basis, Mrs Knight claimed in a speech to "conservatives in Darford, Kent. If they were not also considered and protected the proposed inquiry might contain the seeds of 'great bitterness'."

Mrs Knight said all dealings in this "difficult area" must strive to be fair, and the Home Secretary "must not allow his inquiry to be racist in its operation."

Bill on nationality will not fall, minister says

By Lucy Hodges

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, said last night that he would not withdraw the Nationality Bill, due to begin its committee stage today, in the face of criticism.

Speaking on the BBC television programme, *Panorama*, he said that the Government was prepared to work constructively to make changes in the Bill if necessary.

He said he thought some people would look back on the Bill and say it was not such a bad thing, because it made them British citizens for the first time. Under questioning from Mr Paul Sieghart, chairman of the executive committee of justice, the British section of the International Commission of Jurists, he agreed that Britain was the only country in the world which did not give all of its citizens the right to live in

the country. He emphasized, however, that those in the newly created categories of British overseas citizens and citizen of the British dependent territories, the precursor citizens of the United Kingdom and colonies, did not at present have the right to live in Britain. There would be no change in that respect.

The Government had decided not to give people born in Britain the automatic right of British citizenship because in the modern world people travelled more.

The minister was asked by Sir Robin Day about the commitment made by Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour spokesman on home affairs, in a television interview of Sunday that a future Labour government would repeal such a law. Mr Raison said that did not tally with Mr Hattersley's comments in the Commons.

Council wants to control second homes

Welshmen who express their dislike of holiday homes find it difficult to avoid suspicion that they are sympathetic to arsonists who burn them.

That is why Gwynedd County Council, in a recent memorandum to the Minister of the Environment, and Environmental Services, has emphasized that it is only following the Lake District planning board in seeking powers to control the growth of second homes.

The councillors of Gwynedd have a delicate path to tread. In one hand they must acknowledge the financial benefit tourism brings to the area, while on the other recognizing the frustrations of local people who have been priced out of the market.

Inevitably, holiday homes proliferate in areas of outstanding beauty and Gwynedd, which contains the breathtaking Snowdonia National Park, has thousands of them. A survey in 1979 showed that there were more than 8,000 second homes in Gwynedd, more than 1,000 chalets and 19,275 static caravans.

In some communities, such as Llanbedrog, the number reaches more than 40 per cent of the housing stock and in Gwynedd as a whole there are

Regional report

Tim Jones
Cardiff

As many second homes as there are families on the waiting lists of housing authorities.

According to the county council the growth of second homes is a symptom of a 60-year decline in the rural economy.

"It is clear," the memorandum states, "that the high level of second homes prevailing in several communities in Gwynedd must inevitably have a detrimental effect on the social life of the villages concerned. Not only are the vast majority of second home owners unable to participate in the social life of the village but the dwellings are left vacant for a substantial part of the year."

The memorandum does not study the effects of second homes on the community and therefore there is no mention in it of the diffusion of *Y Pro Cymraeg*, the term used to describe those areas where the Welsh language is still strong.

It is this factor, coupled with economic considerations, that has spurred a few fanatics to break the law and endanger life. The memorandum appeals to the minister to consider amending the Town and Country Planning Act to enable the council to "control the change of use of a dwelling house previously used as a first home to a second home."

It argues for powers to restrict the occupancy of new houses to people employed close to the property. The county council could be more effective in the housing field, the document claims, if it was able to buy properties without government consent and renovate them with the aid of grants.

Grants should also be available, it states, for local people to purchase and rehabilitate small dwellings which would otherwise become second homes.

Unless such measures are adopted, the authors say, there will be a large increase in the number of second homes in Gwynedd within five years. It is implied, but not stated, that local frustrations will be used as an excuse by extremists to intensify their arson campaign.

Magistrates 'give fewer jail sentences than judges'

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates tend to give significantly fewer prison sentences than the crown courts, given the same set of circumstances, the Justices' Clerks' Society claimed yesterday in evidence to the Commons Home Affairs Committee.

The society was referring to the range of sentencing where the jurisdiction of the crown court and magistrates' court overlap. "It would be wrong therefore to see, as some commentators have, the magistrates' courts as adopting a more repressive attitude to sentencing than the judges of the crown court."

The effect over the whole country must be that a considerable proportion of the prison population is in jail be-

cause of the passing of custodial sentences at the crown court in cases that would, and probably should, have been dealt with by magistrates who would almost certainly not have imposed a custodial sentence."

If there was a genuine desire to reduce the prison population there should be an immediate reconsideration of the right to demand trial by jury for minor offences.

Jury trial should not be granted for certain offences, including driving while disqualified, possessing an offensive weapon, assault occasioning actual bodily harm and fraudulent use of an access licence.

The society said that the present division of work between the two levels of criminal court, the crown court and the magistrates' court, gave rise to much delay,

Lorry drivers at Ford Dagenham vote to go back

By Our Labour Staff

The strike by 440 lorry drivers at Ford's plant at Dagenham was called off yesterday after overwhelming acceptance of a formula to end the dispute about the use of an outside contractor for a road haulage journey to the company's factory in Genk, Belgium.

The drivers voted to return to work after hearing an account of negotiations from Mr Ronald Todd, the Transport and General Workers' Union chief negotiator. The strike halted Cortina and Fiesta production and led to 19,000 employees being laid off.

The company said last night that three trial trips to foreign destinations would be made by its driver during the month to assess cost efficiency compared with rail.

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HOME NEWS

Guide for doctors says 600 medicines too costly or of little use

By Nicholas Timmins

A new guide aimed at helping doctors to prescribe more cheaply and more effectively has listed more than 600 medicines, some with household names, as not recommended for use, many of them because they have little effect or because cheaper, simpler alternatives are available.

The guide, the updated *British National Formulary*, has been prepared by the British Medical Association and the Pharmaceutical Society with the backing of the Department of Health.

It brought cries of protest yesterday from the drug industry which complained that it had not been consulted and that the guide created a virtual blacklist of drugs.

The guide sets out, for the first time in one place, indications for use, side-effects and conditions that indicate a drug should not be used, and the relative cost of virtually all 4,500 medicines on the market, together with a recommendation about which are suitable and which are less suitable for use.

The list of drugs not recommended includes most brand-named cough mixtures, including *Acidol* and *Benzlin*, a wide mixture of painkillers, including the prescription-only *Discalgesic*, one of the most widely used analgesics, and many compound vitamins.

At a press conference to launch the formulary, Dr Frank Wells, secretary of the joint formulary committee, said the aim was not to blacklist drugs but to indicate those less suitable for use.

"Many of those not recommended are compound mixtures, for example, of pain-killers or cough mixtures, where a single aspirin or paracetamol, or a plain linctus would be just as effective and cheaper", he said.

Providing relative costs of drugs would enable doctors to choose cheaper alternatives where available. It had been estimated that up to £25m could be saved on the yearly drugs bill of £790m if doctors prescribed drugs under their generic names, rather than brand names.

The new formulary, which is to be updated twice a year and sent to all doctors and pharmacists, says there is no scientific basis for prescribing expectorant cough mixtures, and compound mixtures with several similar ingredients offered no advantage. Those that mixed expectorants with cough suppressants were to be deprecated.

Compound mixtures of aspirin, paracetamol and salicylate were not recommended. They rarely had any advantage, might increase the cost of treatment unnecessarily and could complicate the treatment of overdose. *Discalgesic*, for example, in overdose, could depress breathing as well as cause liver damage.

An official of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Manufacturers said: "A lot of manufacturers are going to be very upset that such a value judgement has been placed on their drugs on such a arbitrary and academic basis." He added that despite the disclaimer, doctors would interpret it as a blacklist.

Inquiry into 'jail drinks ring'

By Our Crime Reporter

Allegations of a drink, drugs and gambling ring in Wandsworth prison, in south London, are to be investigated by the Home Office, said yesterday. The claims were made in *The Sun* newspaper yesterday by a former prisoner.

But last night it was not clear who was to make the investigation. The Home Office said in a statement during the day that the inquiry was being conducted by the police. Scotland Yard said it was not investigating the allegations, and when told that the Home Office maintained that the police were investigating the claims.

Mr Kenneth Johnson, who was released recently after a sentence for fraud, claimed drugs and drink were smuggled into the prison by a prison officer. He said he distributed the goods, charging £10 for a half bottle of whisky and £5 to £10 for heroin or cannabis.

The former prisoner told the newspaper that at weekends prisoners in one wing crowded into cell to watch a portable television set brought in by an officer while they gambled and drank. He claimed that prisoners took heavy doses of drugs from the prison officer. Mr Johnson also made lesser allegations about Northeye prison, in Sussex, where he says he was allowed to drive himself to hospital for an X-ray because no staff were available to guard him.

He claimed that Mr Henry MacKenney, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in the contract murder trial last autumn, was among the prisoners at Wandsworth who regularly got drunk.

Drugs teams duplicating care effort

By Stewart Tendler

Half of the young drug takers receiving emergency help at the City Roads hostel in north London were already being dealt with by medical or social services before going to the unit, a report on the hostel's work shows.

The hostel was set up in 1978 to help drug abusers who fell outside the scope of the drug dependency clinics. In the first two years of operation it received 1,263 requests for admission and took in about 200 people.

The report's case histories provide an illustration of the growth of drug abuse. Nearly half of the residents were admitted a second time.

Eighty-five per cent of them reported recent or frequent use of types of barbiturates not covered by the dependency clinics. Almost half of the residents were already using at least three different types of drug; more than half reported present use of opiates such as heroin.

Ten per cent were receiving maintenance doses of an opiate drug from a clinic and almost a quarter were in contact with a psychiatrist or social worker; 25 per cent were in touch with a probation officer.

The unit was designed to provide a breathing space for the drug takers and if possible guide them towards rehabilitation. Many addicts were caught in a cycle of taking overdoses, emergency hospital treatment and fresh overdoses. The hospitals in central London could do little but release the young people after treating them.

Law officer horrified by criticism of SAS

By Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, told the House of Commons yesterday that he was horrified by a suggestion by a Labour MP that the Special Air Service Regiment soldiers who rescued the Iranian Embassy hostages in London had summarily executed the terrorists after they had given themselves up and that they might have been approved by the Home Office or by Sir Michael.

There were angry protests from Conservative MPs at a question from Mr Dennis Canavan, Labour MP for Stirlingshire West.

To Conservative cheers, Sir Michael pointed out that the House of Commons yesterday had been asked to approve a matter which was considered with care both at the trial at the Central Criminal Court and by the inquest jury.

The courage and determination shown by those involved in the rescue, which saved an unknown number of lives, was a matter of pride for everyone. Sir Michael said that he especially wished to add his admiration for the conduct of Police Constable Trevor Lock.

He told Mr Canavan that the Director of Public Prosecutions, in deciding whether to institute criminal proceedings against members of the Armed Forces acting in support of the civil authorities, used the same criteria as in ordinary circumstances.

Sir Hugh Fraser, Conservative MP for Stafford and Stone and a former member of the SAS, said it was incredible that a member of the Opposition should try to damage the force. Sir Michael replied that there was no evidence on which proceedings relating to the deaths of the terrorists could be justified.

From the Labour front bench, Mr John Morris, QC, Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, said that no one would want to detract from the congratulations over the incident or from the words of the Attorney General about the bravery of all concerned.

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Whitehall brief: Dispersing some of the fogs of secrecy

Prime Minister resists a spirit of openness about government

By Peter Hennessy

In the immediate aftermath of the killing at the first opportunity last Friday afternoon of Mr Frank Hooley's Freedom of Information Bill by the Government's "payroll" vote, it is difficult to see the Thatcher Cabinet as anything but totally dedicated to that all-concealing administrative secrecy which has helped to produce an almost unbroken string of policy disasters for Britain since 1945.

But such a judgment would be unfair. In her first month of office Mrs Margaret Thatcher went further than any prime minister before her in disclosing the existence, in a parliamentary written answer, of four Cabinet committees on economic strategy, defence and overseas policy, home and social affairs and legislation.

Encouraged by her openness, and that of another Commonwealth prime minister operating in a parliamentary system modelled on our own, Mr Pierre Trudeau of Canada, who published the titles and membership of all his Cabinet committees last summer, I wrote to Mrs Thatcher last month asking her to go further, and enclosing the Trudeau list I had been given in Ottawa.

Last week I received a courteous reply from Mr Bernard Ingham, her Chief Press Secretary, saying that the Prime Minister was interested to learn of Mr Trudeau's action but was not prepared to alter her view of what is appropriate here.

So far, Mrs Thatcher believes "would not be consistent with the principle of collective responsibility as it has developed in this country".

So, as a contribution to the spirit of openness to which the Prime Minister has yet to be fully converted, and as a service to the consumers of their product, the general public, "Whitehall brief" would like to present a tabular guide to those Cabinet committees, both ministerial and official, whose existence has become known since May, 1979, despite the fog of secrecy to which the Government has enshrined them.

One of the most secret is the steering committee on intelligence, chaired by Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet. It supervises the work of the JIC and advises the

CONSUMERS' GUIDE TO MRS THATCHER'S CABINET COMMITTEES

Initials	Chairman	Functions
E (PSP)	Mrs Thatcher	Economic strategy, energy, the most important EEC matters.
E (EA)	Sir Keith Joseph	Public sector new policy.
E (CS)	Lord Soames	Micro-economic affairs and aspects of industrial policy.
E (DL)	Sir Geoffrey Howe	Civil service and contingency planning for public service strikes.
PESC	Sir Geoffrey Howe	Disposing of state industries and assets. Annual expenditure survey, round plus any special cases associated with the Cabinet.
OD	Mrs Thatcher	Foreign affairs, defence and Northern Ireland, EEC policy.
OD (E)	Lord Carrington	Preparation of new initiatives.
OD (N)	Mr William Whitelaw	Supervision of the clandestine agencies.
OD (M)	Mrs Thatcher	Joint intelligence committee co-ordinating intelligence from all sources.
TWC	Sir Robert Armstrong	Transition to War Commission planning the mobilisation of the Armed Forces and the home front should war break out between Nato and the Warsaw Pact countries.
HD	Mr Robert Wade-Gary	Civil Defence.
SPM	Sir Antony Duff	Security and safety methods of the Civil and Diplomatic services, including positive voting.
H	Mr Whitelaw	Home and social affairs, including education.
OGU	Mr Whitelaw	Civil Contingencies Unit which plans to brief services and keep essential industries and services going.
MP	Sir William Pyrie	Nationalised industries policy.
CL	Mr Francis Pym	Legislation and preparation of the Queen's Speech.
MISC 7	Mrs Thatcher	Replacement of Poles with a new nuclear deterrent.
MISC 14	Sir Geoffrey Howe	Innovations.
MISC 15	Mr Robert Hobb	Civil service group serving MISC 14.
MISC 21	Mr Whitelaw	Meeting of information officers to manage press level of rate support grant.
MIO	Mr Pym	Management of government economic news: new media irregularity because of persistent leaks.
MIO (E)	Mr Bernard Ingham	Meeting of Whitehall establishment officers of the industrial relations.
COM	Mr Angus Fraser	Recently commissioned to fight off threat of freedom of information.

A word of explanation is needed. The committees are divided into two main types: standing or permanent bodies such as E, E and OD (these

terms are explained in the accompanying table); and ad hoc, or miscellaneous groups, such as MISC 7. Most, but not all, ministerial gatherings are shadowed by official committees of civil servants, such as E(CS), under Mr Angus Fraser, of the Civil Service Department, which works to E(CS).

One of the most secret is the steering committee on intelligence, chaired by Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet. It supervises the work of the JIC and advises the

Prime Minister's very select ministerial group.

Mrs Thatcher has managed to govern with a much leaner committee structure than any of her predecessors since 1945.

The list published in the table is far from complete. Any public-spirited minister or civil servant inclined to the view that the Government's attitude towards Cabinet committees secrecy is excessive could fill the gaps by supplying details in an unsigned, typed message, slipped in the traditional brown envelope favoured by moles.

and addressed to The Times, taking care, naturally, to remove any incriminating trademarks that might provide clues for his or her departmental security officer and MIS.

In brief

Labour MP not to stand again

Mrs Sheila Wright, aged 55, Labour MP for Birmingham, Handsworth, since 1979, will not defend the seat at the next general election because of a recurrence of a blood disorder. She said yesterday that doctors had advised her to avoid the stress of another campaign.

Lottery move praised

The Government's decision last week to double the amount of money that can be won in lotteries from July 1 was welcomed yesterday by Sir John Gifford, chairman of the Lotteries Board, although he said he would be pressing for the limits to be increased even further.

Newspaper strike ends

The *Dorset Evening Telegraph* was published yesterday after the settlement of a week-long dispute with printing workers. The newspaper was printed for the first time on web offset presses at new premises in Meadow Road, Dorset.

Boy gets back fingers

Stephen Irving, aged 14, of Bedford, who lost a finger and thumb in an explosion at his home, was recovering yesterday after surgeons at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, Middlesex, stitched them back on.

Electrician crushed

Mr Michael Byrne, aged 28, an electrician, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, was crushed to death by a hydraulic platform against the ceiling of a paint shop at Pressed Steel Fisher, Cowley, Oxfordshire, yesterday.

Heat may cost more

Families in Manchester council houses that use district heating schemes will be charged up to £17.07 a week for energy, in addition to rent and rates, if the full council approves the decision.

Town hall spared

Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council has rejected plans to demolish the former town hall and replace it with a five-storey block of shops and offices.

Peace at Festival Hall

A dispute about overtime payments that led to a staff strike at the Festival Hall, in London on Sunday was resolved yesterday.



Photograph by Brian Harris

Dog show judge accused of taking bribes

Mr David Stevens paid Frederick Dempster, a dog show judge, £25 to favour his Belgian Shepherd in an attempt to prove that judges were corrupt, Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Dempster accepted the £25 and later a sum of £5. Mr John Rowe, for the prosecution, said Mr Stevens later sold the story of his alleged exposure of corruption to a Sunday newspaper for £3,000.

Mr Dempster, aged 73, of Ashford Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, has denied two charges of corruption.

After the money had been paid, in 1977 and 1978, Mr Stevens's dog won all the classes it entered at shows in Manchester and Leeds, Mr Rowe said.

Mr Stevens's conversation with Mr Dempster about the £5 bribe was tape recorded by journalists. Mr Stevens, of Red Willow, Harlow, Essex, told the court he had told Mr Dempster he wanted his dog to be Best in Show at Manchester, and was told it would be "no problem".

Mr Dempster asked for £15, but Mr Stevens thought that was too cheap. He said he offered £25, which was accepted.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Wren Jeanette Crowley, of the Women's Royal Naval Service, Private Karen Hook, of the Women's Royal Army Corps, and Sergeant Dee Burkill, of the Women's Royal Air Force, who took part in the Interservice Rifle Shooting Championships at RAF Uxbridge yesterday.

More health aid for poorer areas

By a Staff Reporter

Government allocations to health authorities, intended to maintain a promised 1.7 per cent growth in National Health Service spending, were announced yesterday by Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Health.

The Government has still, however, to announce the cash limits for the coming year, which will set the real level of expenditure.

Under yesterday's announcement, money continues to be directed to authorities in poorer areas, such as Trent and North Western.

Horse dealer is fined for using Irish currency

From Our Correspondent

Great Yarmouth

A horse dealer from Dublin, who said he could not read or write, told magistrates at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, yesterday that he thought the Irish and the English pounds were worth the same.

David Jones, aged 23, paid his £95 garage bill with five Irish £20 notes and then tendered another £20 note for 87p of cigarettes and chocolate. The official exchange rate on that day was 71p for an Irish

Ports throughout Britain are picketed by fishermen in protest at cheap imports

Fishing ports around Britain were picketed yesterday by fishermen protesting at cheap foreign imports, fish entrancances and processing factories were the main targets.

Appeals were made to fish porters and lorry drivers at Grimsby to join the protest, but there were indications that they were unsuccessful. Reports from fishing ports around the coast revealed the extent of the protest:

North Shields: Fishermen picketed a Tyneside dock to prevent imported fish valued at more than £60,000 reaching the market.

The men mounted their pickets on Sunday after 300 of them were dismissed by their employers, who say cheap imported fish is making it impossible for them to earn a living.

The first imports to be affected were four containers of fish valued at £13,000 which arrived from Denmark at the weekend. Yesterday that fish was still lying on the quayside and there were fears that it would be deteriorate.

The second consignment of the pickets arrived in the Tyne from Norway yesterday.

Mr Peter Kinnair, a director of Andreas Gilbert, of North Shields, whose company receives fish from Norway twice

a week, said: "I feel very bitter. My company has been importing fish from Norway for 20 years. It is not cheap fish, it is different fish, and this loss is worth about £20,000."

Mr Kinnair said the fish was large haddock and that his imports did not affect the North Shields market.

Unless his company received a supply of fish soon, the 30 men he employs to handle Norwegian imports would have to be dismissed.

The Tyne fishing fleet of 70 boats in tied up at North Shields because of the protest. Grimsby fishermen sealed off the port, but a deal between the fishermen and merchants allowed four Danish smacks with 10,000 stones of cod into the port in addition to six local North Sea boats with 11,650 stones of cod.

Mr Murdoch McInnes, the fishermen's leader, said his men want to do as little damage to local trade as possible, but that lorry loads of cheap Dutch cod brought into Britain through ports such as Dover and Harwich were the prime targets.

No foreign vessels will be allowed to land until Thursday morning, by which time the fishermen hope an official EEC common fisheries policy will have been announced.

The men are likely to have few foreign ships to picket, as

the Icelanders and many Danish ships have agreed to stay away. Hull: About forty Bridlington and Scarborough fishermen picketed the North Sea ferries terminal at Hull, but no fish arrived.

The weekend supplies, of about 400 tonnes, arrived on Sunday. Fishermen also checked the fish dock for foreign supplies, but found none.

Only 2,000 stones of fresh haddock was available on the Hull market, all of it brought overland from Scottish ports.

Newlyn: Four hundred militant Cornish fishermen left their vessels tied up and attended a mass meeting in Newlyn.

A strike committee was elected and they are to ask merchants in the area to boycott landing of fish from 20 vessels that went to sea from Newlyn yesterday.

Mr David Andrew, the strike committee chairman, said after the meeting: "The men are militant; the local industry is being ruined. Action must be taken or we shall have nothing left."

Lowestoft: Only a few of the town's inshore fishing fleet put to sea. Thirty vessels decided to remain in harbour, adding their support to the protest against foreign imports.

Brussels negotiations, page 5



Photograph by Brian Harris

Broadcaster is disqualified

Bill Grundy, the journalist and broadcaster, was given a three-month suspended prison sentence, fined £300 and disqualified from driving for three years by Stockport magistrates yesterday after he had admitted a drink driving charge.

Mr Grundy had a blood alcohol level of 297mg after he had been stopped by police while driving his car unevenly at 15 to 20 mph, it was stated.

Man felt devil took control, court is told

The devil took over when Andrew Holliday had a quarrel with his girl friend, it was claimed in a court yesterday.

Mr Holliday, aged 26, took his brother's shotgun, kidnapped two people and forced a detective to the floor at gunpoint, it was alleged. After an 80 mph chase he was shot by a policeman.

He appeared yesterday before the magistrates at Morley, West Yorkshire, in a wheelchair, with

bullets lodged against his spine and heart. He was charged with nine offences of assault, kidnapping, damaging property and possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life.

Mr Anthony Sugars, for the defence, said: "He feels that the devil himself took over. He did things completely foreign to him."

Mr Holliday, of Ingle Crescent, Morley, was remanded in custody for a week. Reporting restrictions were lifted.

Dog show judge accused of taking bribes

Mr David Stevens paid Frederick Dempster, a dog show judge, £25 to favour his Belgian Shepherd in an attempt to prove that judges were corrupt, Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Dempster accepted the £25 and later a sum of £5. Mr John Rowe, for the prosecution, said Mr Stevens later sold the story of his alleged exposure of corruption to a Sunday newspaper for £3,000.

Mr Dempster, aged 73, of Ashford Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, has denied two charges of corruption.

WEST EUROPE

Discord leaves policy of ruling Spanish party in confusion

From Richard Wigg

Palma, Mallorca, Feb 9

The Centre Democratic Union (UCD) ended its three-day conference today weakened, and without providing any clear directives on how Spain is to be governed in the coming months.

Leading figures of the rival Christian Democrat and social Democrat wings of the party afterwards fell to exchanging complaints about a leftward "reactionary" swing by the party. The arising differences could be a threat to Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo if he is asked in the next few days by King Juan Carlos to form the next government, for he requires all the 165 votes of all the factions of the UCD parliamentary party, plus a dozen or so from the regional parties to secure a majority in the Lower House.

The conference reached policy decisions to assist Sen Calvo Sotelo in his negotiations to form a government. Delegates took a confused and immediately disputed decision to try to tighten the divorce law. After hours of debate by rival factions, the party leaders of the opposition, drew up a declaration which promises everything everyone wants. Spain's economic problems, unemployment it offers, for a neo-Keynesian solutions simultaneously.

There was talk in conference passage ways of outright split in the UCD, words of a Catalan delegate echoing the prevailing line. The election to the executive even if it is a bit fitious.

That goes for the Christian Democrats and liberals but difficulties for the social Democrats, which did worse in the election, were more obvious. They acco for about 25 MPs.

The critics have warned new government that it face a difficult period, full of problems, and they have said that they will keep their fight against a "militant" party and their election to an "unfair" execut

Statement accusing the Speaker of manoeuvring to help power full interests outside the conference to launch a new right-wing and reactionary party.

Señor Suárez is the UCD politician who did best for himself by the conference. Besides the honorary presidency, he ran for a seat on the new executive and won most votes. He obtained 1,281 of about 1,900 delegates. He also got his party confirmed in office as secretary-general.

The best that can be said of the conference is that a tight national executive should be better equipped for a run period to a general election rather than one elected, as the critics wished, by proportion representation. A social Democrat leader defending Sen Calvo Sotelo reminded the delegates that the task was to be the Socialist Party in 1983.

Señor Calvo Sotelo has evidently retained full control over the party machine and, in a newly-created post of honorary president, can hope to advance on his idea of preparing to win the general election in 1983 or before, should persistent government crises force an earlier appeal to the country.

Señor Calvo Sotelo and Señor Augustin Rodríguez Sahagún, the Defence Minister, who has been chosen as the new party chief, have been left by the conference with a UCD manifestly more divided than ever.

Señor Suárez's admission line behind the scenes permitted the so-called critical sector (chiefly Christian Democrats and liberals) only seven seats on the new national executive of 37.

This caused Señor Rodríguez Sahagún, the hitherto cautious Christian Democrat speaker of the Lower House, to run as the critics' candidate for the leadership. He obtained more than 700 of the delegates' votes, while Señor Rodríguez Sahagún, who is Señor Suárez's brother-in-law, won with just over 1,100 votes.

Señor Lavilla turned his fire on the social Democrats, alleging that there was a danger of a leftward swing by the party. This angered Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the Justice Minister, and social Democrat leader, who issued a

ETA activists attack big anti-murder march

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Feb 9

Stone throwing counter-demonstrators today blocked a march against terrorism in San Sebastián which had been called in protest against the murder by Basque terrorists of a kidnapped nuclear engineer.

The San Sebastián march, like similar rallies in other Basque cities, was jointly organized by political parties and trade unions in the region as a show of opposition against the Basque separatist movement ETA which had murdered the engineer.

A general strike also took place throughout the Basque country today to demonstrate public anger. The strike was almost totally effective in San Sebastián and Bilbao, where it even affected radio stations and newspapers. Public transport, schools and shops closed down.

In Victoria, the capital of the autonomous Basque region, the participation in the strike was estimated at 50 per cent.

Several hundred people took part in the counter-demonstration in San Sebastián late this

afternoon. They clashed with those leading the thousand anti-terror marchers, shouting of "Long live ET" they attacked the march with stones, clubs and umbrellas.

The assassination last Fr of Señor José María Ryan, chief engineer of the still unfinished nuclear power plant at Lemóniz, near Bil, galvanized opposition to it like no other incident has far. Señor Ryan, a father five, was shot dead in blood because the Spa authorities refused to accept withdrawal from ETA to de finish nuclear power plant.

Over the past three y ETA has repeatedly bombed on fire and shot up the of and installations of Iberd the company which is built and owns the plant. Several have died in attacks.

The terrorists object to nuclear plant because they it represents a threat to safety of the residents of Bil. The attacks have seri delayed construction.

US criticizes hypocrisy behind violence

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, Feb 9

The United Nations Human Rights Commission is obliged to condemn both "those who use terrorist violence and those who support and condone it," Dr Michael Novak, the American delegate, said today.

"No world order can be built on the backs of victims of terrorism," he said. "For how shall terrorism, once unleashed by all against

WEST EUROPE



Icon revealed: One of 50 icons which after cleaning revealed that a flourishing community of Cretan School painters existed in Western Sicily in the seventeenth century, among them three masters. The icons, which are to be exhibited in Palermo in April, come from religious foundations of the Eparchy of Piana, an independent Catholic bishopric of Greek rite.

Most of the works had fallen into obscurity because they were blackened by age and dirt, or else had been entirely repainted in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

In late 1979, experts were called in and they enlisted Signor Placido Scandura, a neo-surrealist painter, to undertake cleaning, consolidation and restoration.

OVERSEAS

Compromise possible in Canadian dispute

From John Best
Ottawa, Feb 9

The premiers of six provinces which are opposing Mr. Pierre Trudeau's constitutional reform plan, met in a Montreal hotel room today to coordinate their strategy.

It appeared certain that one subject of the closed, all-day meeting would be a possible compromise to cool the heated debate which is dividing Canada, and threatens to poison its relations with Britain.

But they were expected also to discuss the possibility of a tougher campaign against Mr. Trudeau's plan should attempts at compromise fail. This could include sending a delegation of premiers to London to persuade British MPs to vote against the plan when it arrives at Westminster.

Under a resolution now before the Canadian Parliament, Britain would be asked to legislate a Bill of Rights and constitutional amending formula for Canada, to surrender control over the British North America Act of 1857 and all other constitutional instruments relating to Canada.

Before today's meeting in Montreal one of the premiers, Mr. Brian Peckford, of Newfoundland, told reporters that the provinces could agree on an amending formula if they were allowed more time.

It is widely assumed that Westminster would pass "on the nod" a request from Canada for patriation of the BNA Act, together with an amending formula. However, a patriation measure that included a Bill of Rights would encounter considerable opposition, and might be defeated.

Mr. Trudeau has asked no sign that he will consider dropping the Bill of Rights. Asked in the House last week about the possibility of a compromise along the lines suggested by Mr. Peckford, and earlier by another premier, Mr. William Bennett, of British Columbia, he shrugged and said he had not seen the proposal.

The other premiers attending today's meeting were: Mr. René Lévesque of Quebec, Peter Lougheed of Alberta, Mr. Sterling Lyon, of Manitoba and Mr. Angus Maclean of Prince Edward Island.

The formula contained in the present federal resolution would give the two central provinces, Ontario and Quebec, power of veto over future changes to the constitution, while less than total unanimity would be required among the four Western provinces and the four Atlantic provinces.

Concern is growing about the damage being caused to Anglo-Canadian relations. Sir Anthony Kershaw, the chairman of a British parliamentary committee, which last month came out against the Trudeau plan, gave warning in Edmonton, Alberta, at the weekend of "blood on the floor" before the matter was resolved.

"I only hope that good Anglo-Canadian relations are not won over casualties," Sir Anthony declared.

Three Arab nations join hands for security against superpowers

Saudi king wary of Reagan 'get tough' policy

From Robert Fisk
Jiddah, Feb 9

When Dr. Henry Kissinger received an audience from King Khalid of Saudi Arabia last month, his words were not, it seems, greeted with the fascination which the former American Secretary of State usually expects.

While that familiar Bismarck was setting out his exposition of Soviet aspirations in the Middle East, the King—according to those who witnessed the event—spent some considerable time ordering tea and straightening his robes, frequently brushing dust from his sleeves as the gurgling voice uttered the most sepulchral warnings of Soviet ambition.

Saudi television ignored the meeting and the government-controlled press agency failed to mention it for 24 hours. It can be argued, of course, that Dr. Kissinger had merely flown into Riyadh on a private visit and that the Saudi monarch did not regard him as President Reagan's unofficial emissary.

But the Americans received even shorter shrift when President Carter instructed his ambassador in Saudi Arabia to inform King Khalid of the details of the deal negotiated with the Iranians for the release of the embassy hostages. America's most senior diplomat in one of the world's richest countries immediately sought his audience—and was then kept waiting for four days.

The Saudis have been voicing increasing fears about the possible use of the American Rapid Deployment Force, suggesting that the policy was that which it is always nice to know that the United States is ready to defend the Middle East from external aggression, it is equally important that the Americans do not send their fleet up and down the Gulf.

Prince Saud, the Foreign Minister, suggested during the recent Islamic Conference sum-

mit in Taif that if the Americans were really anxious to stand up to Soviet aggression in Afghanistan, they should do so "inside Afghanistan".

It is all meant in the kindest way. The Americans are not told constantly in Saudi Arabia, are trusted friends. But the Saudis have become acutely aware of the new super-power rivalry that could develop under President Reagan.

To provide the United States with military bases, the Saudis believe, merely attracts further Soviet interest in a part of the world that the Russians must anyway cover because of their own depleted oil supplies. Equally, the Americans must not be dissuaded from honouring their commitment to defend the Gulf. The two concepts are almost incompatible, and thus the Saudis are seeking some formula that will ensure their security from both superpowers at least for the foreseeable future.

The true nature of this formula is still unclear, but it involves a new triangular relationship between Riyadh, Amman and Baghdad—a combination of conservatism, pragmatism and Arab socialism that would be laughable were it not so obviously an unofficial cornerstone of Saudi foreign policy.

The Iraqi Baathists have little reason to love the conservative, pro-American Saudis, while the Saudis have always suspected the motives of King Hussein of Jordan, the last claimant to the Hejaz. But the three nations are feeling increasingly insecure and isolated, and can identify several common anxieties.

All fear that the Afghan conflict could spill over into the Gulf, and all fear that the resulting face-off between Soviet and American forces could burn up their own lands. The Saudis are concerned about Soviet activity in the Horn of Africa while the Jordanians every day watch for a

sign of further collapse in the Syrian regime to their north. All three suspect that if the left take control of an Arab state, Iran—albeit, they will have helped to bring about such a coup by attacking the Iranians across the Shatt al-Arab waterway—then the Russians will move into northern Iran with the same ease as they did during the Second World War.

Above all, they are obsessed with the idea that an even more powerful, Israel will expand its territory at the slightest sign of Arab fragmentation and this enlargement—in Lebanon, they believe, is already taking place—will be undertaken with the tacit and perhaps even the open support of the United States.

It is therefore not by chance that the Saudis continue to oppose the Camp David peace treaty and that they apparently permit Soviet weapons to be shipped through their territory to Iraq.

Nor was it some vague notion of fraternal generosity that persuaded the Saudis to clean up their murdered King's grave three years ago when the Jordanian monarch came to visit his cousin's last resting place. Nor was King Hussein offering his Army to Iraq last year merely because he espoused the cause of Arab unity.

The Russians certainly have little to lose in the Middle East just now. After their sobering experience in Egypt 10 years ago, any foothold in the Arab world is an advantage. The recent Treaty of Friendship with Syria offers scope for considerable influence in the Middle East. There are already rumours that the Russian navy will improve its presence in the Syrian port of Latakia, and being hastened so that Soviet vessels can use the harbour.

Turkish diplomats, in the Middle East, are constantly reminding fellow diplomats that an air corridor only 300 miles long would separate Syria from Soviet territory if Russian air-

craft overflew Turkey. And why, they ask in the same breath, do the Russians increase their embassy staff in Beirut just now?

The Jordanians are patiently waiting for the overthrow of President Assad, of Syria, although it is certain that if this gloomy prediction was fulfilled, the Alawite Government would retreat to the north of Syria. If necessary setting up its own state around the Alawite mountains east of Latakia.

This would merely be a signal for a further collapse in Lebanon where the Maronites would be in a position to start their much-publicized "cleansing of the land—pushing the half-million Palestinians into the Bekaa and Syria, and even joining up with Major Saad Haddad's Lebanese militias along the Israeli frontier.

Small tribal nations—Druse, Maronite states and Alawite states—would then spring up in Lebanon, on the side with Saudi and Shia Muslim states, perhaps defended by the remnants of a broken Syrian army.

All this may seem absurd today but this sequence of events remains a compulsive nightmare for the Arab nations which still retain their stability. If Syria and Lebanon were to break apart, would not the Kurds of Iraq, the Shia Muslims of southern Iraq, the Palestinians of Jordan and the Shia Muslims of Saudi Arabia not demand their own small fiefdoms?

A chain of petty, seceding states, fragmentation that would inevitably spread into Iran, would then resemble the matrix of subject kingdoms that existed under the Ottoman Empire, a powerful state and which would assist to end from whichever side they favoured, but the most powerful manipulation would come from the United States whose "area of interest" in the Gulf would be extended into the Levant. The most stable nation in the Middle East would be Israel.

Access to British coastal waters main obstacle in EEC fish talks

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 9

Agriculture and fisheries ministers of the EEC engaged in some tentative sparring here tonight and then retired until tomorrow morning when it is hoped that a determined effort can be made to break the deadlock in the long running negotiations over a new Community fisheries policy.

It is clear that the differences between France and Britain over access for foreign boats to British coastal waters are the main obstacles to agreement. If his can be cleared out of the way—a big assumption—member states should not find it too difficult to agree on how to share out the total fish catch.

In what appeared to be a conciliatory gesture, Mr. Daniel Hoefel, the French minister, played down reports of an anti-British Franco-German alliance. "It is not a question of trying to isolate one country or another," he told journalists. "We all have to make concessions."

In talks before the meeting with Herr Hans-Jürgen Roehr, his German counterpart, Mr. Peter Walker, the British minister, was also understood to have been assured that recent German statements about the need for an early solution to the fisheries dispute were not aimed solely at Britain but at all member states.

On access, Mr. Walker is demanding that waters within 12 miles of the coast should be reserved for British fishermen though he is prepared to allow additional small-scale fishing off the south and south-west coast of England, for example

by the Bretons off Cornwall, to continue.

In addition Mr. Walker says that fishing in the Irish Sea and around the north and east coast of Britain down as far as Flamborough Head must be limited to boats of less than 80ft up to a distance of 50 miles from the shore. This would be designed to give a clear advantage to local boats.

Mr. Hoefel said tonight that France was prepared to consider a 10-year extension of the existing temporary curbs on access to coastal waters, which were agreed as part of Britain's treaty of accession. He also said that he was ready to discuss Mr. Walker's request for fishing controls beyond the 12 miles, at any rate off the coast of Scotland.

This appears to suggest that there is room for compromise. The question is what would happen at the end of the 10 years envisaged by Mr. Hoefel. Mr. Walker made it clear tonight that he would want coastal restrictions to continue automatically unless there was unanimous decision to end them, thus giving Britain a right of veto. This could be too much for the French.

The ministers had before them proposals from the European Commission on the sharing of the seven most valuable fish species. The proposals, identical to those discussed last December, give Britain around 36 per cent, in value adjusted tonnage, of these fish—cod, haddock, coley, whiting, plaice, mackerel, and redfish.

The only new element is a proposed sharing of a potential catch of 92,000 tonnes of her-

ring in parts of the North Sea and elsewhere. This appeared designed to offer a sweetener to those countries which feel that Britain has been treated too generously.

Hitherto herring fishing has been banned because of the depletion of stocks and the recovery has not yet been sufficient to permit fishing to be resumed on the scale envisaged by the Commission. However, this is a bargaining counter that Mr. Walker could concede during the negotiations.

Elfishermen protest: About 360 angry fishermen blocked the ports and 2,600 fish-processors staged brief strikes in Bremerhaven and Cuxhaven today in protest at delays by the Community's agricultural ministers in negotiating a fishing agreement (Patricia Clough writes from Bonn).

A spokesman for the fishermen described the delays in Brussels as "criminal". If an agreement was not reached soon, West German deep-sea fishing, which makes up two thirds of the fishing industry, would be finished, leaving several thousand jobsless.

About 150 fishermen occupied the locks at the entrance to the fishing harbour in Cuxhaven and 200 did the same in Bremerhaven for five hours this morning, preventing off-shore snacks and other vessels entering or leaving. Employees in near by processing factories stopped work for about half an hour.

Fishermen's leaders from both ports will meet tomorrow to discuss even tougher measures if the Brussels talks should fail.

Judge who saw himself as avenging sheriff is ousted

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 9

The minority Judges' Union as called on all members of the judiciary to strike next Thursday to protest against the decision of the Magistrates' Superior Council to dismiss M. Jacques Bidalou, the non-conformist judge at Hyange.

"The independence of judges is dead, the freedom of citizens is in peril," the union proclaimed melodramatically in a statement after the announcement of the council's decision.

M. Bidalou is the first judge to be dismissed for breaches of the law. He is certainly in every respect something of a special case, and it is difficult to imagine anyone like him, pre-empting a court in Britain.

He once defined himself as a judge who does not respond to a whistle call—and he acquired some notoriety in, among other things, refusing to sentence motorists who did not wear their safety belts on the grounds that the law was a reach of individual freedom.

He once summoned M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, to appear in a case between an unemployed worker and the national health authorities, M. Barre did not turn up.

But the most grievous blot on his record, in the opinion of the council, was the legal battle he fought against the eviction of foreign workers from a hostel. The Court of Appeal in Metz quashed seven successive

orders he had issued in defiance of the court.

The most surprising thing of all is how M. Bidalou, whose approach to the law was to take the least original, ever became a judge. His case is likely to start off some profound second thoughts on the present system of recruiting members of the Bench.

He had set up within the Judges' Union, which in the last few years has repeatedly been in conflict with the Minister of Justice and his administration, a "punk international" of which he was the only member. He frequently posed as a sort of "people's judge", an avenging sheriff or Don Quixote of the courts, who claimed to defend the little man.

He was something of a case apart, even by comparison with the most "progressive" hot-heads among younger French judges, some of whom are transferred or even promoted by way of a sanction for their excessive or misplaced zeal.

The decision to dismiss him was not taken lightly. The council which is composed of nine senior judges appointed by the president, sat for 37 hours on Friday and Saturday.

The judgment, published in full today, says M. Bidalou committed "several seditious and repeated offences against the duties of his office."

Dutch squatters shifted by police bulldozers

Amsterdam, Feb 9.—Police bulldozed barricades and fought demonstrators today during a fresh flare-up of violence involving the city's squatter community.

About 1,000 police, supported by mounted police, dogs and water cannon clashed with several hundred demonstrators in street fighting. The violence centred on a heavily barricaded canal house which was occupied by squatters two weeks ago.

Police cleared surrounding streets of barriers and then smashed into the house with an armoured car to make 34 arrests.

As the squatters were brought out, bands of sympathizers spread throughout the city, smashing the windows of offices and banks. Near the house, a street barrier was set alight and hundreds of paving stones tipped up.

Police said two officers were injured in the fighting. There were no known civilian casualties but it was the biggest display of violence here since December when another building was cleared of squatters during a confrontation.

Violence involving squatters in the city is now nearly a year old.

Squatters have taken over nearly 600 buildings and every time the police move them out from a particular centre, violence is likely to break out, supported by radical groups and sympathizers.—AP.

Hope seen for the Polish economy in long term

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Poland's economic position is "quite desperate" in the short and medium term, but "not hopeless" in the longer run, according to an analysis of the crisis published yesterday.

The West and the Soviet Union, the report says, appear to have sufficient interest in coming to a cooperative arrangement to make the piecemeal, "middle-through" solution apparently favoured by the Polish authorities, and so far followed by the banks, only adds further risk.

The report, *The Polish Crisis: Western Economic Policy Options*, by Professor Richard Portes of Birkbeck College, London, outlines the prospects for Poland overcoming its economic crisis by its own efforts and the approach taken by Western governments.

Poland's debts, as Western governments have now begun granting Poland new credits, the report is timely.

The deep problems of the Polish economy have not shown any signs of yielding to the new political leadership or the new distribution of power in society, Professor Portes writes. First of all, the political crisis that can be constructed now would be at best very difficult for the Poles and at worst "disastrous for us all, East and West."

After some improvement during the early part of last year, civil and political rights deteriorated in South Korea, the State Department reported today.

In its annual report on human rights in the world, the State Department conceded, however, that the Government in Seoul met the economic and social needs of its people. In North Korea, by contrast, the inhabitants were subject to "rigid controls" of the so-called "military dictatorship" in Kwangju last May had left nearly 200 people dead.

A sweeping process of purification of society, which the Government launched in June, sharply restricted the rights of politicians, journalists, scholars and others," the report said.

Mr Sadat in Luxembourg to discuss peace move

Luxembourg, Feb 9.—President Sadat arrived in Luxembourg today for three days of talks with EEC leaders. He was met by Mme. Simone Veil, President of the European Parliament and Mr. Pierre Werner, Prime Minister.

Mr. Sadat, who was accompanied by Mr. Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, tomorrow will meet Mr. Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission, and Mr. Christopher van der Klauw, president of the Council of Ministers and chief

negotiator of the European Middle East initiative. Cairo interest: Egypt broadly supports the idea of an European peace-making role in the Middle East, and Mr. Sadat is expected to express increased interest in the initiative when he meets the European leaders.

With a new United States Administration in office and elections due in Israel on June 30, Mr. Sadat has acknowledged it will be months before a peace process can get rolling again and is looking to the EEC to help fill the vacuum.

White House battle over budget

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Feb 9

The battle of the budget is well under way. President Reagan, like all his recent predecessors, has promised to balance the budget. This year's deficit will be anything from \$55,000m—Mr. Carter's figure—to \$80,000m—Mr. Reagan's figure—and the President wants to turn this into a surplus within three years.

Mr. David Stockman, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, and this month's superstar, has allowed news of the cuts he proposes to leak out. The press and other media, which were all born yesterday, described the proposed cuts in the most melodramatic terms.

The Washington Post wrote that the Reagan crusade promises to produce a year of epic political struggle unlike anything seen before in modern Washington.

Mr. Stockman is on the cover of *Newsweek* with "cut, slash, chop" written all over it. However, a quick look at his figures shows that he is proposing cuts of 3.5 per cent in next year's budget, with perhaps a further 2 per cent in the year after.

The American budget year begins on October 1, and the budget for the fiscal year of 1982 was delivered to Congress by President Carter last month, just before he left office. It proposed expenditures of \$238,000m, and a deficit of \$27,500m. With immense fanfare, Mr. Stockman has sent to Congress the news that he wants cuts of \$26,200m (3.5 per cent), with the possibility of a further \$10,000m to \$20,000m cuts to come.

Kurdish spurn Tehran's pardon offer

Tehran, Feb 9.—Ignoring offers of pardon to mark the second anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution, Kurdish insurgents were reported today in renewed fighting today with government troops in the mountains of north-west Iran.

The Kurdish rebels, seeking autonomy, are laying down sizeable government forces in a second war in a country, fighting a protracted civil war since last September.

Refugees from the Kurdish stronghold of Mahabad reported by telephone today that defiant Kurdish guerrillas were paying no heed to government radio broadcasts offering pardon to insurgents laying down their arms before Wednesday.

Wednesday has been declared a public holiday there to mark the day when Iranian revolutionaries, united under the banner of Islam by Ayatollah Khomeini, seized control of Tehran in a wave of revolutionary violence, and swept away the Shah's regime.

The refugees said government forces, operating on hill-tops around Mahabad, had been shelling guerrilla positions inside the city for the past 10 days, using mortars and heavy artillery.

The Kurds were replying with light automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades according to the refugees. They said many houses in Mahabad had been wrecked and food and fuel for the civilian population were running low.

They also said that thousands of civilians had fled the city, many for the safety of Orumi-yeh, capital of East Azerbaijan province north of Mahabad.

Human rights eroded in S Korea, report says

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 9

After some improvement during the early part of last year, civil and political rights deteriorated in South Korea, the State Department reported today.

In its annual report on human rights in the world, the State Department conceded, however, that the Government in Seoul met the economic and social needs of its people. In North Korea, by contrast, the inhabitants were subject to "rigid controls" of the so-called "military dictatorship" in Kwangju last May had left nearly 200 people dead.

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On top of that, the President wants to cut personal and business taxes, the former by 40 per cent in each of the next three years—and to increase defence spending even faster than Mr. Carter wanted. Congress will, undoubtedly, defeat many of Mr. Stockman's cuts.

At this rate, he will have cut first 12-figure deficit first year. Now the mouse, that this mountain is labouring to produce is a staunchly Republican rodent. The 10 per cent tax cut will be of great benefit to the rich and will leave the rest of us roughly where we are now. Salaries that rise with inflation take people into higher tax brackets. A 40 per cent tax cut in 1981 will put us back to where we were on the escalator in 1980.

There will be some painful cuts in welfare programmes. Other programmes that will be hurt include child nutrition (school meals), trade adjustment assistance (subsidies to workers whose jobs have been lost to foreign competition, like car workers in Detroit), urban development and public transport.

There are also cuts that might appeal to Democrats, as well as to Republicans. These include the abolishing of Mr. Carter's subsidies to the synthetic fuel industry, public broadcasting, the arts and humanities, the space programme (Nasa), and regional assistance to poor areas of the country, such as Appalachia.

All these programmes have strong support in Congress. President Reagan will formally announce all these cuts and more, on February 18, in a speech to Congress.

OVERSEAS

Enemies of Mr Obote seize weapons in raids on police stations

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Feb 9

Several suburban police stations in Kampala were attacked by heavily armed men early today, and their armories were cleared of guns and ammunition. Hours after the attacks, members of an organisation calling itself the Uganda Freedom Movement (UFM) claimed responsibility, and said this was the start of a campaign to overthrow the Obote government.

Three UFM representatives, who would not give their names, told me their organisation had widespread support among the Ugandan people. The object of the attacks, they said, was to obtain further stocks of arms, and the campaign would continue.

The group claimed that their men also attacked the main prison at Luzira, overlooking Lake Victoria, about five miles from Kampala, and the Nubya army barracks near by. About 500 men were said to be involved, including members of the Ugandan army.

Official sources said one officer had been killed in the attacks on police stations, and another abducted. One of the attackers was also killed.

Further casualties are thought to have resulted from the fighting, which appeared to be widespread. A post office engineer was shot dead at a suburban road block.

The attacks early today came after several days of tension in Kampala. Ugandan army units have carried out intensive searches of some suburban areas, apparently looking for arms, and word of the impending raid had reached the Ugandan authorities.

Armed military guards have been placed on the telephone exchange and other key government installations in Kampala as part of the same precautions.

At the weekend the house of

Mr John Kazzara, a leading Ugandan lawyer, who is out of the country, was attacked by soldiers with guns and grenades. The attack was apparently aimed at Mr Yoweri Museveni, the leader of the small opposition Uganda Patriotic Movement, who had been staying there but was out at the time.

A few miles away, in the suburb of Lunguja, three children were killed when troops attacked the house of a retired magistrate. Afterwards they said they had mistaken it for another person's house and apologized to the survivors.

The Freedom Movement representatives said the attacks were carefully coordinated to take place just after 3 am today. "We achieved complete surprise and captured the contents of the armories at the Wandegaya, Kiira Road and Kawempe police stations."

They said the movement was founded soon after the overthrow of President Yusefu Lule, in June, 1979, but had only just gone into action with the aim of restoring democracy in Uganda. "We want the people to choose for themselves. The December elections were a fraud," the group said.

"There will be more attacks. This is a revolution by the people of Uganda against a corrupt government, which continues to commit murder, robbery and rape."

They would not identify themselves or their leaders, but said they had their main support inside Uganda, with some outside support. The three said they were a former diplomat, a doctor and a university lecturer.

There has been unrest recently in Kampala over food shortages which resulted when the ruling Uganda People's Congress ordered price reductions. Dealers say they cannot afford to supply to sell at the stipulated prices.



The Duke of Kent conferring with Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed of Abu Dhabi, deputy supreme commander of the United Arab Emirates armed forces. The Duke is on a tour of the Gulf.

Clash between rival factions tests integration of Zimbabwe Army

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, Feb 9

Police were searching near Bulawayo today for soldiers of a Zimbabwe National Army battalion who dispersed after factional clashes at the weekend, in which one man was killed and several civilians were wounded.

Fighting broke out at a beer hall at Nubazinduna, about 15 miles north-east of Bulawayo, on Saturday evening and continued yesterday. After the initial clash, motorists came under fire and roadblocks were set up on the Salisbury-Bulawayo road, which passes Nubazinduna, to prevent civilians entering the area.

The train running between Zimbabwe's two main cities was also raked by automatic fire on Saturday night as the rival factions shot it out. At least two passengers were wounded.

Residents of the township fled their homes and hid in the surrounding bush. Today Bulawayo police reported that the area was quiet and the road blocks had been lifted.

The fighting was between former guerrillas of the Zippa force, which follows Mr Joshua Nkomo, and ZANLA, which is loyal to Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister. They had been integrated into a national army battalion.

This is the first time factional violence in a national battalion has been publicly acknowledged by the authorities, and it is an ominous indication that political tension is having an effect on the integration programme, which was designed to eliminate friction between the former guerrilla groups.

The battalion involved was formed last July and has been based at Nubazinduna. The

authorities are particularly concerned because it is a relatively senior unit, and one of the first resulting from the programme.

A military observer commented: "It may just have been liquor [that caused the violence], but there may be deeper connotations that we have been unaware of."

Meanwhile, the accelerated integration programme which started at the beginning of the year is going ahead with the formation last month of the first three battalions.

It is planned that by the end of August a total of 33,000 former guerrillas will have been absorbed into the Army.

However, the accelerated programme is seriously straining the resources of the British training team here, which is required to produce three battalions a month, where the maximum previously was two.

Russia tries to win over Delhi conference

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 9

In a clear attempt to ward off attacks on their policies in Afghanistan and their support for Vietnam's control of Kampuchea, the Russians are insisting that the main task of the non-aligned countries, now meeting in Delhi, is to strengthen their ties with communist countries and oppose imperialism and colonialism.

A Pravda report said the non-aligned movement looked to the Soviet Union and "progressive forces" as its natural allies, since these countries helped the members of the movement to overcome the legacy of colonialism and strengthen their political and economic independence.

The Russians have been worried by the increasingly sharp attacks on their policies by several influential non-aligned countries, and have put these down to the attempt by the West to split the movement.

Pravda said the West and China were trying to use the movement for their own ends, pushing the off its anti-imperialist course, weakening the beneficial influence of "progressive" (pro-Soviet) countries, undermining cooperation with communist countries and imposing on the movement tasks "alien" to it.

While attacking the West for trying to tell the non-aligned countries what to do, Pravda said the task of the movement was to strengthen its anti-imperialist character and cooperation with the communist countries, and to try to steer a middle course between East and West.

Meanwhile, President Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan, whose country's policies are one of the issues dividing participants in the conference, renewed his calls on Iran and Pakistan for de facto recognition of his government and direct negotiations on a bilateral basis as proposed by Kabul last year.

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Mr Hayden returns to the attack

From Douglas Aiton
Melbourne, Feb 9

The Australian Labour Party has emerged from the shadow of last October's election defeat with a spirited speech in Sydney yesterday by Mr William Hayden, in which he vigorously reasserted his leadership of the party and attempted to define Labour's role for the 1980s.

His speech to the Asian Pacific Socialist conference, held immediately after Mr Hayden returned from three weeks overseas and at a time when some of stirring from the Labour camp was becoming overdue.

The Labour leader tried to establish that his party was an enemy of business while he condemned the Fraser Government for promoting business and private interests.

He accused conservative forces in Australian society of conducting a nasty, pernicious propaganda campaign against what is described as big government.

Canberra anger with EEC jeopardizes arms deal

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 9

Australia has postponed a decision on the purchase of European equipment for its armed forces, after a commitment made in Canberra in 1979 as part of the Tokyo round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Last autumn, Mr Doug Anthony, the Australian Deputy Prime Minister, visited Europe and received what the Australians took to be assurances that the commitment would be honoured. But so far these have not been fulfilled.

There is sympathy for the Australians in the European Commission, but the Commission has been unable to overcome the opposition of some member states, notably France, to any relaxation of beef import policy.

The quarrel over beef is part of a wider dissatisfaction felt in Canberra over EEC farm trade policy, which combines controls on imports with the subsidised sale of food surpluses on external markets where the Australians also compete.

The immediate cause of friction is the EEC's failure to increase its imports of beef from 50,000 to 60,000 tonnes in line with a commitment made in Canberra in 1979 as part of the Tokyo round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Non-aligned in search of compromise formula

From Trevor Fishlock
Delhi, Feb 9

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, opened the non-aligned movement's foreign ministers' conference here today with a declaration that we are not here to juggle words. But in attempting to avoid a rift in the movement, the conference will have to do precisely that.

Plainly the non-aligned movement sees itself in crisis, its validity increasingly questioned, its credibility reduced, its founding philosophy weakened.

Mrs Gandhi and other speakers urged the movement to bury hatchets and return to basic principles, not to lose sight of the aims outlined when the movement was founded 20 years ago.

Others, however, want the movement to play a more robust role. They cannot contain the impatience with the movement's

evasiveness and ambivalence on troublesome issues.

A demand for a more assertive image was made tonight in a speech to the conference by Mr Agha Shahi, the Pakistani Foreign Minister.

Ambivalence is bound, to erode the role and credibility of the movement as an independent political and moral factor in international affairs," he said.

He urged the movement to demand the withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan. "In keeping with the role envisaged for it by its founders, the movement needs to pronounce itself unequivocally on the violation of the sovereignty of one of its oldest members."

Mr S. Dhannabalan, Singapore's Foreign Minister, supported Mr Shahi, and actually mentioned the Russians by name. Urging the conference to make a stand on Afghanistan and Kampuchea, he said hundreds of thousands of Afghan and Kampuchean refugees had fled the invaders, and every

day Afghans were being killed by Soviet troops.

Condemnation itself will not get Soviet troops out of Afghanistan or Vietnamese out of Kampuchea, but our silence, our skirting the issue, will certainly help the occupying powers to continue aggression. How can we expect the world to take us seriously when we do not condemn aggression. Our only weapon is moral courage," he stated.

It became clear tonight that there is no hope that talks might be started at the conference between Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan, under the aegis of Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General.

Mrs Gandhi, who has been criticized in the non-aligned movement for not condemning the Russian action in Afghanistan, referred only briefly to the issue in her opening speech.

We are all deeply distressed at events in Afghanistan," she said.

New talks on Falklands

By Our Diplomatic
Correspondent

Talks on the Falkland Islands dispute are to be held in New York on February 23. Mr Nicholas Ridley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, who recently visited the islands to discuss new ideas, will lead the British delegation.

He will seek an agreement from the Argentine Government "to freeze the dispute for a specified period of time" at the islanders' request, after

their decision to reject the British idea of transferring sovereignty to Argentina and leaving back the islands.

How long the islanders want the "freeze" to last is one of the issues to be discussed, it was stated yesterday. But it seems unlikely, given the sight of the islanders, that the issue, that such a solution would commend itself to the Argentine Government.

The idea of leasing the islands has not been formally discussed with Argentina.

Six found guilty in Sydney explosives trial

Sydney, Feb 9—Australia's longest criminal trial ended today when six Yugoslav-born men were found guilty of conspiring to make explosives intended to endanger life and damage property.

During the trial that started in March 1980 the prosecution said the six immigrants were Croatian nationalists who planned to use bombs to disrupt Sydney's water supply, bomb various clubs and travel agencies, and attack a theatre during a visit by Croatian entertainers from Yugoslavia.

The jury found five of the men not guilty of another charge that they conspired to murder two men. The sixth defendant did not face this charge. The judge deferred sentencing the men.

The six men, Maksim Bebie, 29; Vinkoslav Bradjovic, 30; Anton Zivotic, 31; Ilija Kokotovic, 32; his brother, Joseph Kokotovic, 27; and Mile Nekic, 32; pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The trial started with a 12-member jury but last December two jurors withdrew, one from illness and another due to pregnancy.—Reuters.

Britain and the Third World: Africa's tea industry is helped to world prominence

Kenyan smallholders grow with London's financial aid

This is the first of four articles examining the work of the Commonwealth Development Corporation.

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Feb 9

A highly successful smallholder tea scheme, backed by British funds through the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), has made the Kenya Tea Development Authority (KITA), which runs the scheme, the biggest single supplier of tea to the world market.

Until the early 1960s Kenyan tea was almost entirely produced on large plantations. The plantations, owned by such household names as Brooke Bond or James Finlay, are still there, but smallholder farmers—averaging less than an acre of tea each—are already appearing the day when they will produce the bulk of Kenya's tea.

The smallholder can give more careful attention to his crop, and this—combined with the fact that the Kenyan smallholders are of recent development and use the best cultivation techniques—has enabled the

tea to reach consistently high quality levels, which attract top market prices.

The Commonwealth Corporation has been the main supporter of the tea authority from its inception. The idea of smallholder tea production in Kenya was first developed over 1959 to 1960 by the CDC, in consultation with the then colonial government in Kenya.

The KITA now represents the corporation's biggest single smallholder investment anywhere in the world—about £16m. In loan finance, for field development and factory construction.

The KITA operates by licensing individual tea farmers in a designated area (including some areas where tea was not formerly grown, but where soil and climatic conditions are suitable for the crop), who are then assisted through the supply of seedlings, fertilizer and, above all, advice to become tea producers.

When tea is ready for plucking (it is normally plucked by the farmer's own family, and not by hired labourers as on the large tea estates) the farmer sells it to a local buying centre. Such a centre is not usually

more than three miles from his farm. Hence it is acceptable for the KITA (on if the quality is too low, rejected). The KITA transports the tea to the nearest factory for processing, packing and shipment. The tea authority has 24 factories in operation, with another five on the point of completion and 10 more under construction.

Each factory ships its tea under its own mark and this helps to provide an incentive for quality. The importance of this is illustrated by the high prices that best quality tea fetches at auction in London or Mombasa. Last year one KITA factory received an average of 17.56 shillings for a kilogram for its tea, while others received 13 shillings or less.

The farmer in Kenya receives an advance price of one shilling a kilogram for his green leaf, but he later receives a second payment related directly to the price his tea is sold for. The second payment can be as high as two shillings 70 cents, or (in the case of a new factory which has not yet established itself in the market) as low as one shilling.

There are also local and district committees, and provincial boards, made up of growers' representatives, who consider such matters as transport

For 1979-80 the KITA collected 137m kg of green leaf from small African growers, and its factories produced 31m kg of prepared tea. This was less—because of dry weather—than the previous year, but even so it brought in £29m in foreign exchange to Kenya.

There are now about 127,000 acres of smallholder tea, tended by 130,000 farmers. Their average yield last year was 2,700kg of green leaf, and the average smallholder earned more than 3,000 shillings from his tea. This is a significant sum for a small farmer who also produces other crops on his land.

Last year the total payment to farmers was 379m shillings. Ten years earlier it was just over 34m shillings.

Special efforts have been made to associate the farmers themselves with the processing and marketing of their crop. Most of the board members of KITA are elected by the tea growers.

There are also local and district committees, and provincial boards, made up of growers' representatives, who consider such matters as transport

delays, payment and problems of cultivation.

Each tea factory is organized as a separate company, with its shareholding divided between the KITA and CDC. Tea growers are able to buy shares in tea factories.

The opening up of new areas to tea production has had an important impact on the Kenyan economy. New roads have been constructed, telephones and other communications developed, and electricity installed. Many other industries have benefited from the expansion of the tea industry, ranging from the manufacture of plywood for tea chests to the assembly of lorries to transport the tea.

The railway system and the port of Mombasa have also benefited from the growing volume of tea exports. But the greatest immediate benefit has been to the 130,000 small farmers and their families who grow the tea. They now have an additional, regular source of income—and a direct stake in the prosperity.

Next: Indonesia and Malaysia

SPORT

Racing

Nicholson youngsters receive further boost

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Interest in the two-day meeting at Newbury which begins on Friday will not be confined to Saturday's David Nicholson programme. Lord Northampton's colt Broadwood, who is favourite to win the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham next month, will have his last race before the National Hunt Festival in the Stroud Green Hurdle on Friday.

Butter that we have ever had him was now Nicholson described Broadwood to me yesterday. Nicholson was at Fontwell to see another of his good four-year-olds, Great Developer, run away with the Chester Novices Hurdle. The strength in depth that Nicholson possesses is something to marvel at.

Great Developer has also been entered for the Triumph, but Nicholson is of the opinion that he is not good enough. Great Developer was ridden in inspired fashion by Peter Scudamore, who found the best ground, even though he gave lengths away by racing on the outside. I do not often find reason to criticize John Francome, but riding the favourite, Clifton, he did allow Scudamore to give him the slip.

After checking that Scudamore had weighed in, Nicholson—whose 35th birthday this season was celebrated by the fact that he had only two to equal his previous best total—outlined his plans for his good four-year-old, Great Developer, who has won his last two races so impressively, will do battle with Fifty Dollars More at Ascot tomorrow.

Toondra, who is far better, Nicholson insists, than he has appeared so far, judged on a work-out. He will be out to prove his point at Newbury on Saturday.

Another Duke is the first son that Mr Pilkington has had training at Finton with Josh Gordon, who has won the Cup just once more before the 5 Alliance Novices Steeplechase Cheltenham.

The rain which made life miserable for the Sussex country washed away today's program at Warwick. Carlisle has survived, however, and I suggest that W. the Cop who has won the cup, extending his trainer, Pe Easterby's successful run by winning the Hail Whisky Novice Hurdle in the hands of his son, Tim.

Silver Buck's target: Silver Buck, the winner of the George VI Steeplechase, a high favourite for the Cheltenham Cup, may go for the Ely Steeplechase at Huntingdon on Thursday. The owner, Mr. J. W. P. Mean, says he is not planning an extraordinary meeting between Silver Buck and Jack of Tru in the Cornish Steeplechase. Schweppes Gold Trophy day Newbury on Saturday.

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PARLIAMENT, February 9, 1981

Minister promises to do best to protect private steel sector from state subsidized competition

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Embassy rescue: SAS not given immunity

Mr. Michael Havers, the Attorney General, said he was horrified by the rescue of the SAS in Iran, but that the Government would not grant immunity to the SAS members involved in the rescue.

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Seeing IB through until it returns to private sector

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Sale of parts of Leyland a management matter

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Unclaimed premium bond prizes

Mr. Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that the Government was looking for unclaimed premium bond prizes.

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Department in touch with ICL on R and D

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Bill an essential part of package to establish effective and systematic approach to training

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ITB chairmen criticize 'retrograde step'

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Cooperation needed in redevelopment of inner city areas

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MEPs seek nationality Bill change

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THE ARTS

Changing fashions of realism between the two wars

Les Réalistes
1919-1939
Centre
Georges Pompidou

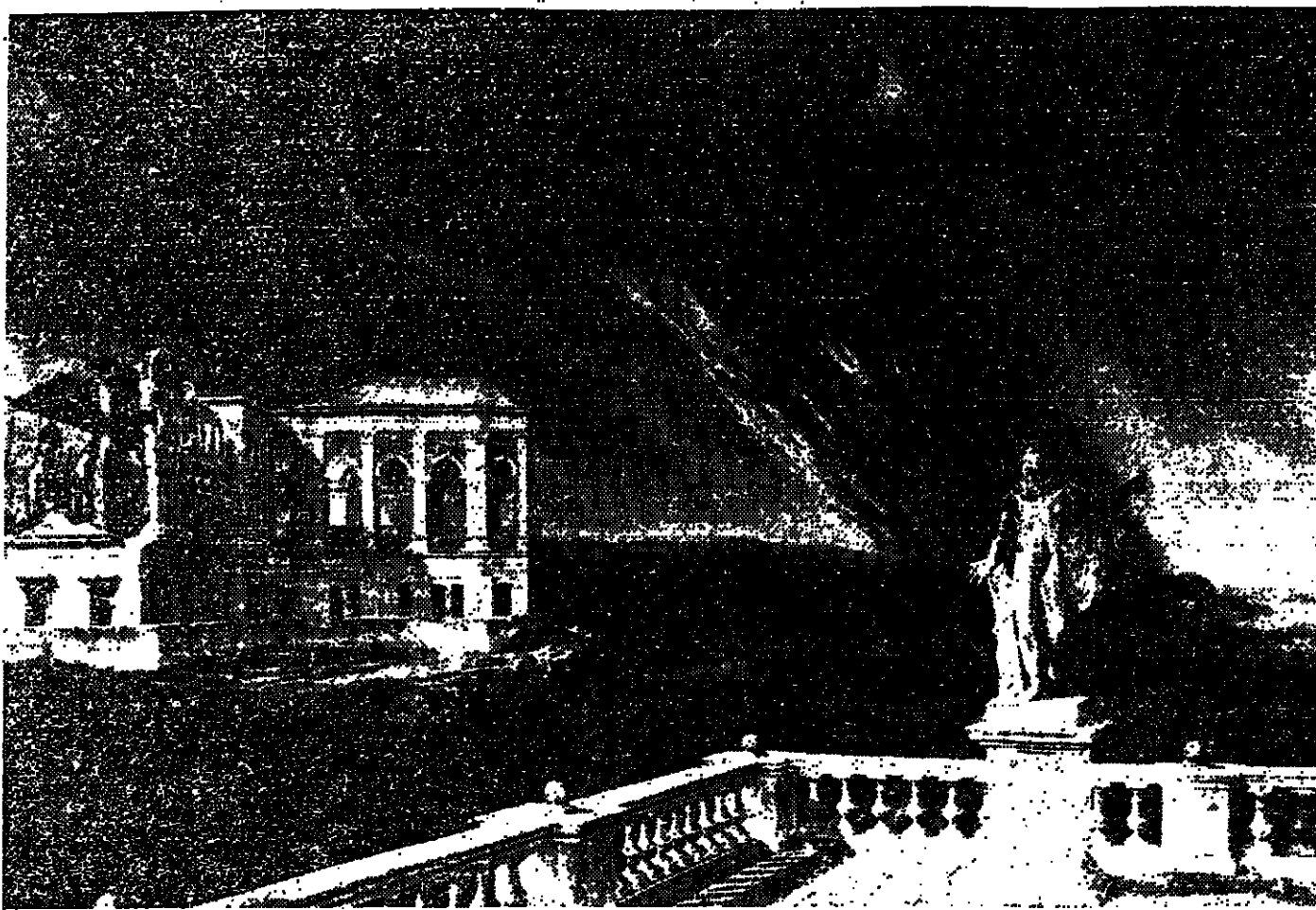
Jean Carlu
Musée de l'Affiche

Jean Fouquet
Louvre

Les Métiers de l'art
Musée des Arts
Décoratifs

Why "realism" in the plural, you might wonder. To that question at least the big Spring show at the Centre Pompidou, *Les Réalistes 1919-1939* (until April 20), provides a quick and obvious answer. It is not about just any old realism, some amorphous, undefined attitude to the subject-matter of painting, but about the long succession of mostly short-lived art movements which, between the wars, proposed and illustrated the continuing validity of some kind of directly representational art. Until quite recently it has been the habit to ignore or discount such movements, on the grounds that they did not fit in with the orthodox view of how "modern art" developed organically and individually from Impressionism onwards, primarily through the various phases of the Ecole de Paris. If one supposed that Analytical Cubism was the last gasp of representational art, the last, serious attempt of painters to render external physical reality, then any later attempts to approach reality by classic means had to be regarded as anachronistic, retrograde, and suited only to the debased tastes of totalitarian regimes who chose to know no better.

Since Pop Art and Superrealism attitudes have changed rather. Painters such as Hopper and Sheeler, who once seemed peripheral, now are seen as central. The various exhibitions devoted all over the world in the past five years to the Neue Sachlichkeit painters of the Weimar Republic have been revelatory. And each country inevitably, in rediscovering its own recent past, has been looking again at its own artistic eccentricities: in Britain the example imme-



Carel Willink: *Château en Espagne* (1939)

diately to hand is the big Stanley Spencer show at the Royal Academy last year. All of these make it clear that, alas for neatness, realism was by no means played out as a creative force after 1919. Even in France itself a couple of big shows in the past two years have drawn attention to the powerful survival of realism during the 1920s and 1930s, a nadir which it might be thought the fashionable pundits of Paris.

So that is what the Beaubourg show is all about. It starts coherently enough, with sections devoted to each of the major groups as it comes: the Metaphysicians, Valori Plastici and Novecento in Italy; Neo-humanism, Neo-romanticism, Forces nouvelles and Réalisme socialiste in France; Magic Realism, Verismus and Neue Sachlichkeit in Germany; Regionalism in America and so on. In all of these, though their ultimate aims and objectives vary considerably, one can see a continuing preoccupation with rendering external reality as a means of artistic expression.

Not all of the art on display is very encouraging. The Metaphysical art of Chirico after

his Surrealist period, for instance, is empty and bombastic, and even technically slipshod, to an extent which makes his brief mastery around the time of the 1914-18 war even more unaccountable. Fortunately there are other Italian painters of the period, hardly more than names these days outside Italy, who show to excellent effect: a painting like Fausto Pirandello's *The Staircase* (1934), with its ghostly mingling of partial figures ascending and descending the stairs, is astonishing in its subtlety and formal invention.

The work of the Neue Sachlichkeit group is already familiar, though some unfamiliar examples of it enliven the German sections of the show and confirm the impression left by the Hayward show that Karl Hubbuch, though not the best known, is in many respects the most dazzling and timeless of them all. Among the French Baltais (expectedly) stands out, but there are powerful works, more or less socially involved, by Jean Marchand, Georges Rohmer and others, and a little corner devoted to the maverick Alfred Courmes, rediscovered quite recently

through an otherwise rather bizarre show of new French art at the Serpentine. A Czech sculptor called Otto Gutfreund makes a strongly individual effect with his limited figures of men at work and his portrait busts. Britain is represented by, most notably, Spencer's "leg-of-mutton" nude; it is a pity that the Scotsman James Cowie, who would work very well in this context, is not included at all.

It is at about this point that the exhibition begins to fall apart. Maybe it is something to do with the wide open spaces which need to be filled, but it is hard to see the relevance of rooms of deep furniture and fittings (certainly a chair is a chair is a chair, but does that make it necessarily realistic?) and big displays of posters, architectural renderings of movie palaces and such art glass and practically anything else which was produced between the wars. The most likely explanation, though, for this sudden wrenching of the show in the direction of social studies seems to be the organizers' horror at their own logic: which clearly demonstrates that the unmentionable Nazi official art falls naturally

into the new pattern of twentieth-century art they propose, and does not look all that bad either. Certainly in that part of the show there is sudden sprouting of long explanatory apologetic captions, designed apparently to make it clear that Nazi art is included for sociological reasons only. Unluckily the internal logic of art history seldom coincides with what, politically, we would like it to demonstrate.

Part of the reevaluation of aberrant French artists from the 1920s and 1930s is the renewed attention paid to the poster-artists of the period. One of the most memorable paintings at Beaubourg is a portrait of Chanel by a contemporary, Jean Carlu, is the subject of a major retrospective at the Musée de l'Affiche (until March 29), and his powerful graphic style, as applied to marketing everything from aspirin to the Allied war effort, still has a thing or two to teach commercial artists of our own day.

London enjoys occasional amount of quiet satisfaction in having originated the Pissarro exhibition now just opened at the Grand Palais after its

triumph at the Hayward: it will be interesting to see how the next, more markedly national example of British artistic enterprise, the Gainsborough show from the Tate, does when it opens just next door. I should also mention an admirable if slightly pedagogical show devoted to the fifteenth-century French painter and miniaturist Jean Fouquet at the Louvre (until April 19): at least one is never likely to see again so much of his work so enlighteningly displayed in one place.

Meanwhile—another example, as it transpires, of influence from across the Channel—the modern craft movement has hit Paris in a big way with a gigantic exhibition under the title *Les Métiers de l'art* at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs (until April 27). The museum has just set up its own permanent craft shop in the entrance, modelled on that at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and is pulling in the crowds, to such an extent that the show has been extended for a month, to look at a wide and catholic selection of the best in French crafts today. It is not, I suppose, possible that anybody could like absolutely everything in the show, but it would be hard for even the most capricious not to find something to respond to. I was particularly impressed by the ceramic discs of Yves Mohy, the exquisite and intricate glass of the Mondou family and the animal-shaped furniture of Gérard Rigot (a chair like that could kill your brother...).

There are some extraordinary large pieces like Pierre Capperon's white ceramic *Mur No 1* which are very decidedly on the art side of craft and demand to be judged as such. It must also be said that some of the more respected older masters of French crafts, come up with pieces of almost unbelievable hideousness and vulgarity, and it is a pity that the notorious French vagueness about English spelling crowns the achievement of an imaginative and finely-tooled leather binding by lettering it on the spine *Moby Dyck*. But the show as a whole is memorable and achieves an extra dimension by being cunningly related through other applications of *les métiers de l'art* to the museum collection in general: conserving the history of the decorative arts and being aware of precedent and continuity is important to the future of good for modern craftsmen to be mindful of where they are going to.

John Russell Taylor

Philharmonia/Haitink Festival Hall/Radio 3

William Mann

Now that Bernard Haitink has yielded up conductorship of the LPO, our other orchestras are seeking his services. So it was that on Sunday he conducted an all-Bruckner programme with the Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus.

His symphony was the unfinished ninth. When the composer realized that he would not live to complete the finale, he asked that his setting of the *Te Deum* should be performed instead.

The Philharmonia and Haitink half-respected his wish: the *Te Deum* was indeed matched with the symphony, but given before the interval, so that its C major did not further add tonal conflict to the D minor of the symphony, or the E major of its extant Adagio end.

The ninth symphony was Bruckner's serene farewell to this world. The trumpets already sound in him on the other side in that Adagio third movement, which remains the *Paradiso* of the work's Divine Comedy, resolving (in a foreign key) the tragic *Inferno* drama of the tremendous first movement, and the partly malign, partly seductive *Purgatorio* of the scherzo movement.

So, at least, was implied by Haitink's noble, unexaggerated account. The Adagio could only

be followed by a "Chor Angelorum" and it would have been a major tonal "Hallelujah" and those who have Masses by Bach and Beethoven. Haitink sent us home with the balmy repose of the major Adagio, and the velvet euphony of Philharmonia horn and strings on their best behaviour, greatly palpitating in our ears.

If anybody wanted to conjecture how Bruckner would have ended the symphony, Haitink's blazing account of the *Te Deum* was fresh in the memory. He was bold, harmonic, confident, choral unisons, the consoling aspiration of the solo vocal quartet passages.

Shelia Armstrong, Alfro Hodgson, Philip Langridge, and Gwynne Howell admirably blended with the resplendent voice of the Philharmonia Chorus, just now in top form thanks to their new choir-master, Heinz Mendelsohn. The finale of Bruckner's ninth symphony would have to do with its first movement: Bruckner's symphonic finales rarely do so. Better, surely, than may be sure of hearing it wondrous work complete serenity in the *Paradiso* Pantheon. After such a concert as this one more earthly less ambitious devotees of Bruckner can content to imagine how much supreme visionary has come to the most extraordinary of all his symphonies.

Singcircle St John's

Hilary Finch

Saturday's Sounds Alive concert, the second of a series of three, had a disturbing unity of purpose: nearly all its compositions for amplified voices expressed, with differing degrees of clarity, a sense of chaos and an impotent, pointed more accurately by being contained within a building of such contrasting sensibility as St John's, Smith Square.

Three of the works drew their inspirations directly from poetry, the words cracking and breaking under the burden, Henri Pousseur's *Mnemosyne* and *Id* a bipartite and fragmented setting of lines from Hölderlin. "We are a sign without meaning... have almost lost our language...", contrapoints moodily and improvisation and awaits for consequence or simultaneous performance in variable media. This performance was perhaps less effective for choosing to precede as well as juxtapose the accomplished and often beautiful improvisations of Suzanne Flowers, with the lengthy choral-like declamation of the freely-rearranged words by four distanced singers.

The isolation and striving of the individual voice pitted against a quadrophonic pre-

corded tape of voices and for tones in Luigi Noni 1964 *La Fabbrica Humana* the tentative, with a few words of Scaglia and Paris rising and curving into mellowing into speech, punctuated by fragmented exclamations created a potent if static image compellingly realized. Federico Malmsey-Clark.

Two poems from I. Hughes's *Crow* were more conventionally projected through Sangeha, an early-twentieth-century crafted voice overheard for six voices by Richard D. Jones, much of the immediacy of the imagery, fused by amplification. A Bell's pleasing but unoriginal non-verbal exploration of "Imprisoned Mind" in *At a point in contrast*, its recurred words of murmurations for four voices and tape fluttered like the first performance of Richard Orton's *Lingua* bland investigation of extreme vocal pitchfield, which realized its somewhat tedious activity by reference to myth of Ebel.

The other premiere was Jean-Paul Curaty's *Diah* phonetic, a "translation" from note to vowel of Diah *Sometime*. It pitches replica with a hierarchy of timbres, the idea constantly entertaining, the execution accomplished and oblique enjoyable.

upon to do as much. Despite the *Satie* drama absolute sympathy more the fine technique, whereas Ravel both are essential. Varsano reconciled those titles in his exhilarating account of *Jeux d'eau*, which was clearly rightly shining like the fountains and the *Jeux* by Henry de Régnier. It prompted it. It is curious that Ravel submitting first movement of his *Sonata* for a competition that nobly else bothered to enter, and in the remaining movements, the *Sonata* could scarcely seem more refined and, although the *p* may be more abstract in intention, the fast-flowing passage evoke the same fountain. Again, the gentle precision of the *Jeux d'eau* of Varsano's interpretation reveals much.

The warmth and, beyond the contained passion of Fauré nocturnes, numbers and five, brought a different atmosphere to the concert. Varsano's rich and spacious Mr Varsano was a best here, although unaffected naturalness of Fauré playing was matched by his subtle management of the *Jeux d'eau* of Debussy, *La Terrasse* and *Audience* *Clair de Lune*.

Daniel Varsano Queen Elizabeth Hall

Max Harrison

Even in a recital devoted to French music, not many pianists would venture to begin with a large *Satie* group, as Daniel Varsano did on Sunday afternoon. Much of this music is quiet, almost timid in manner, uncompromising in its lack of display, and offering the performer few conventional opportunities for self-assertion. In the opening *Gnossiennes*, Mr Varsano was impressively exact, however, with his placing of individual notes and the balance of textures, although the final effect, inappropriately, was rather nervously subjective. He did better in the still sparser *Gymnopédies*, drawing nearer to the music's still, calm centre.

In later *Satie* cycles, such as *Les trois valses distinguées* and *Jeux d'eau*, violence is implicit in the very restraint, as it is in a different way in the *Jeux d'eau* of Debussy, where misquotations of other music found in the *Embryons deséchés*. Mr Varsano, who recently has recorded some of these pieces, has off very much the right balance of sensitive nuance and detachment. Not many pianists can be relied

Jazz in low spirits

Don Rendell Round House

Richard Williams

Jazz of all kinds long ago came to terms with the concert hall, but the quintet with which Don Rendell opened his Contemporary Music Network event made the modest platform of the Round House seem like some terminal beach. In a club environment, perhaps the truly derivative nature of their music might be obscured by background noise; on Sunday, before an audience dotted about in a sea of empty seats, the group lay naked and gasping for breath.

Rendell, a saxophonist who is among the elders of British modern jazz, has in the past led several interesting groups. This one, which merely calls to mind the music heard on many Blue Note sessions of the middle 1960s, is not among them. The repertoire, a mixture of what are commonly called "originals" (a grave misnomer in this instance) and standards, provided a little stimulus, but the musicians often seemed to be operating by reflex.

Rendell and his saxophone partner, Stan Robinson, have come to contrasting terms with the influence of John Coltrane, but they appeared unanimously preoccupied and unable to offer more than stunted doodles. They were given little assistance

by their pianist, Pete Sabe who has a graceful touch whose quiet banality curiously an appropriate relief that Herbie Hancock to the right conclusions 15 ago, and that there is not worth while to be added at stage.

The second half began a saxophone quartet performed by Rendell, Robinson, Kurt (alto) and John Will (baritone). Resolutely smart, slightly saccharine, discreetly muffled, it sounded like an exercise for the 1950s musicians of the *Coast* musicianship.

The rhythm section returned and the group was joined by trumpeter, Dick Pearce, a trombonist, Paul Nieman, the evening's main event, *dell's Earth Music*, a set of eight pieces in various ventional modes: bebop, jazz-rock, blues, and jazz-blues. Once again, despite straightforward nature of composition, an air of unclarity, almost of disorientation, prevented the soloists from doing anything more than modestly literal interpretation. The sole exception made for the bassist, B-edge, who delivered an lude in which he used his rich tone and a gently attack to develop a lyrical across the entire range of instrument. That apart, yawn during the evening's involuntarily provided a summary.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted yesterday's later editions

Book review

Taking Leave of God By Don Cupitt

(SCM Press, £4.95)

If Don Cupitt had been a bishop, his latest book would probably have caused the same sort of hullabaloo as *Honest to God*, for some have already begun to denounce its "atheism" and its "subject matter is not dissimilar from that of Bishop John Robinson's best-seller of the sixties. What is deeply moving about it is also that, rather like *Honest to God*, it is personal testimony: "Here stand I: I can do no other."

But it is nonsense to accuse a man of "atheism" who can write: "My God is still the *deus absconditus*, the hidden God who is found at last to hide himself in the depths of the heart"; and: "God both represents to us what we are to become and shows us the way

to become it; union with God is the goal, and the love of God is the way"; and: "God is a unifying symbol that eloquently personifies and represents to us everything that spirituality requires of us. The requirement is the will of God, the divine attributes represent to us various aspects of the spiritual life, and God's nature as spirit represents the goal we are to attain."

The Dean of Emmanuel's book is surprisingly far from the arid God of the philosophers I had been warned to expect. He is no remote and ineffectual Don. Cupitt simply tries to be honest to himself and to answer the question: How can I practice the Christian religion when, in the late twentieth century, I find myself with a new cosmology, with a corresponding change in the nature of knowledge, in the way people think about all the leading social institutions, and with an "autonomous" self that has to get away from an authoritative framework imposed from without?

Many Christians who read *Taking Leave of God* will find it profoundly disturbing—more disturbing than it needed to be, for it is an "Either-Or" sort of book—Kierkegaard gets a dozen quotations—where it could with profit (and a little more wrestling) have been "Both-And". But it is beautifully written—a worthy successor of Edwin Evans's "Symbolism and Belief", forty years on. It will provoke "the faithful" to think more rigorously about what they believe, whilst the questioning unbeliever may find in Don Cupitt—who describes himself as "battered-by-life"—the guide he has been seeking.

One last quotation—a thought for today: "We need a spirituality to direct our freedom and make it fruitful, so that human lives can gain something of the nothing-wasted integrity and completeness of a work of art. When lives are founded off in that way, death loses its sting."

Eric James

Marvin Gaye asserting his individuality

Although he is one of the authentic pioneers and superstars of black American popular music, Marvin Gaye has long held a reputation for unconventional behaviour, thanks to his evident distaste for authority in all its forms; so it was not altogether a surprise to discover that he has been living quietly in London, since his concerts at the Albert Hall last June, and that this journey in the nature of a retreat from professional and personal conflicts.

During the past two years he has experienced, in his own words, a "horrible metamorphosis". Various business ventures went awry, culminating in massive demands from the Internal Revenue Service, which seized his Los Angeles recording studio and other property in lieu of payment; his wife successfully sued him for divorce, making further claims which forced him to record an album, *Here, My Dear*, whose profits go directly towards the settlement (with typically mischievous wit, Gaye turned the album into a biting examination of their liaison); finally, and in some ways most profound of all, the relationship with his record company suffered an apparently irreversible breakdown.

In such circumstances, the last would probably be the least of the problems; such disagreements are, after all, not uncommon in the world of popular music. Gaye's case is different because the company in question is the black-owned Motown Records, the most famous and fertile of all pop factories, with whom Gaye has been associated virtually since his beginnings more than 20 years ago.

Although he had served a teenage apprenticeship with singing groups, Gaye joined the fledgling Motown organization as a drummer, but it was not long before the company's founder, Berry Gordy Jr, recognized his potential and put him to work with various teams of songwriters and producers, resulting in a string of hit singles—"Stubborn Kind of Fellow", "Ain't That Peculiar", "Heard I Got a Thing Called Love"—which virtually defined the development of soul music in the 1960s and which upheld Motown's proud slogan: "The Sound of Young America."

The bond was further strengthened when Gaye married Anna Gordy, Berry's sister, such intra-company relationships were the rule rather than the exception at Motown during its early days, and were plainly a factor in the creation of the tightly-knit family atmosphere which contributed to its phenomenally consistent success.

Gaye's popular duets with Motown's female singers, notably Kim Weston and Tammi Terrell, broadened his reputation, but the death in 1970 of Tammi Terrell, which has remained the subject of speculation, affected him deeply. As



if to shake himself out of the depression, in the following year he released one of the landmark pop albums of the seventies, entitled *What's Going On*, whose adventurous treatment of social themes and extended musical forms opened up a number of possibilities hitherto forbidden to black pop artists.

Most importantly, *What's Going On* was a wholly self-determined work, thereby contradicting Motown's established production-line procedure; it was achieved in the face of considerable corporate resistance. Enormous worldwide success vindicated Gaye's judgment, but in some eyes only cemented his reputation for being a stubborn kind of fellow. Relations deteriorated as he exploited his new independence, and as other artists, like Stevie Wonder, began to follow his example.

These achievements were counterpointed, however, by his business disasters, including the brief ownership of a professional football team, the Detroit Wheels, the management of a string of boxers and ventures into the stock market, only one of which returned a modest profit. Gaye freely admits that his own nature is at least partly to blame: "I'm not the easiest of people to deal with. If I feel like taking a vacation in the middle of a project, because I need the creative stimulus, I will take it. Someone else might feel that I should stay and finish the job, but in the past I've always gone. That puts a strain on business relationships."

On the other hand, I tend to look upon myself as a race horse. This has been my argument over the years: if Secretariat is a fine horse, but she throws riders and has trouble getting into the gate, who gives a damn as long as she wins the race? You must treat

her right, put her out to grass, give her the best pasture and try to cool her off, because the object is to win. I'm nervous and highly strung, but apparently it goes with my talent. And, if I'm treated properly, I can do what I do probably better than anyone else."

A lean, languidly elegant man who talks softly but volubly, Gaye appears to be exploiting his ability to seem thoroughly guileless. Gaye agrees that some of his problems stem from the transition pop singers of his generation had to make from being virtual puppets of the producers into acceptance as "artists". Tensions have arisen because the record business "still demands its quota of 'product' in the old way, making no allowance for temperament."

"I haven't had room to expand. Motown is interested in the commercial market, so if I want to do something that is not necessarily of a commercial nature, but might be, they would rather not take the chance. They want something that will hit the charts immediately."

Motown will release a new album, *In Our Lifetime*, this month, and its gestation was subject to that kind of pressure, according to Gaye. Originally conceived as *The Love Man*, and conceived as an attempt to reassert his primacy as soul music's pre-eminent sex symbol in the face of challenges from other, younger singers, it was rewritten and re-recorded until it now emerges as a musical meditation on what he sees as an approaching Armageddon. The observation that its musings are rather opaque disarms but does not surprise him, for he claims that he was not allowed to finish the project.

"I wanted to make it clearer, but I wasn't afforded the opportunity... and I do

say 'afforded' with dollar signs behind it. The album certainly has a theme, though: I believe I do my best work when I'm thinking conceptually. But Motown felt that enough was enough. As I've indicated, we're not enjoying the best of relationships. In fact we've just agreed the terms and conditions for a separation."

So *In Our Lifetime* will be his last record for Motown? "Sadly, yes. And will there be regrets? Yes. Although I'm not fond of the record business, I am very fond of Berry Gordy, and there are many happy memories. Even the hassles were often stimulating and necessary. After all this time, though, I don't feel that our relationships are going to change. In 22 years they've grown to know me too well, and they think about me in a certain way, and I feel that I'm not treated with the respect I should have." Certain incidents from the past plainly still rankle, too. "There were some appalling liberties taken with projects which Tammi Terrell and I did, and there have been tears over the deaths of people I knew, but I don't feel like going into that at this time. I'll explain it all in my autobiography, which will be very truthful."

Gaye denies that he is writing his story simply to correct the errors of a lurid pulp novel called *Number One With a Bullet*, published in 1974 and written by a former Motown publicity agent, Elaine Jesmer, who had worked closely with him. The novel seemed to paint a barely-fictionalized portrait of the daily life of Motown, with a promising male singer, named Daniel Stone, but bearing a marked resemblance to Gaye, at its centre. Speculation was fuelled when the book disappeared from the shelves with mysterious suddenness: soon after its publication.

"The book was squashed, actually," Gaye observes. "The movie was squashed, too. Paramount were ready to make it right after *The Godfather*."

Predictably, Gaye maintains that he is in London because he loves the tolerance and humour of the British: he envisages returning to America at some point, but is at present "considering any offer", including the chance to run a Nigeria World music centre in Nigeria. His prime concern, though, is to find someone who will buy him out of his Motown contract. "I'm looking for a genuine offer from people who are really concerned about me. I want to spend the next 10 years doing my music really seriously, for a change, even if it means living on a beach in Hawaii and playing it only to my friends. That's possible, by the way. I did it for eight months before I came to London. I have a history of playing the ball game, according to my own rules; frankly, I sleep better that way."

Richard Williams

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Mr. Sussex, who farms fifty acres in East Devon, had an unforgettable Bank Holiday Monday.

In the small hours of the morning he played host to a few unexpected guests.

Altogether about fifteen members of the Cullompton Fire Brigade attended.

When they arrived, Mr. Sussex's home was ablaze. When they left, at eight o'clock in the morning, it was in ruins and in spite of all their gallant efforts Mr. Sussex, his wife and four children were homeless.

Which was something that could

not be said about the rest of Mr. Sussex's dependants; his herd of pedigree Friesians.

They were still perfectly at home in their pastures and as much in need of Mr. Sussex's constant attentions as ever.

A fact that was not lost on the loss adjuster we put in charge of the case.

He gave up his Bank Holiday afternoon to visit the Sussex's at what was left of their farmhouse.

There and then he declared the farmhouse a write-off and agreed to pay Mr. Sussex £1,000 to take care of his immediate expenses.

But there was still the problem of where the Sussex's were going to live.

If Mr. Sussex had worked in an office it would have been no problem. We'd have put him, and his family, up at a hotel.

But, as Mr. Sussex pointed out, you can't run a farm from a hotel room. His cows expect a 6.50 a.m. call for milking and calves like fires start at all hours of the day and night.

Obviously it was vital for Mr. Sussex to live where every farmer belongs; down on the farm.

Mr. Sussex himself found the perfect solution to his, and our, problem.

It took the form of a 42ft, three bedroom mobile home. He paid £1,500 for it and we paid him back the very next day.

He parked it right next to the cowshed and lived in it quite comfortably until his house had been rebuilt.

Mr. Sussex, it seems, doesn't treat farming as a nine to five job.



Just as we, and Mr. Sussex will back us up on this, don't treat insurance as a nine to five affair.

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.

We knew the cows couldn't wait for the farmer to come home.





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE SOONER THE BETTER

"But, my dear sir", cried Mr Weston, "if Emma comes away early it will be breaking up the party." "And no great harm if it does," said Mr Woodhouse. "The sooner every party breaks up, the better."

Jane Austen. EMMA.

Mrs Shirley Williams would make a good Prime Minister. What is the case against her? She has a good second class intellect rather than a first class one. Relatively few Prime Ministers are of the highest mental quality, and they have not all been among the most successful. Balfour was probably the most gifted intellectual to be Prime Minister in this century, but among Prime Ministers we were not outstanding. She is slow to make up her mind, and feels her way cautiously through problems, tacking this way and that. In a statesman, such caution is a virtue; undue decisiveness often causes disaster in a democracy.

It is also true that Mrs Williams holds a number of views which on *The Times* we do not share. She is an egalitarian, and we are not. She wants to abolish private education, and we do not. She believes in a wealth tax, which we believe would depress business investment still further. Yet *The Times* must take the rough with the smooth. There has not been total agreement between a Prime Minister and the newspaper since Neville Chamberlain was in office, and that was based on both of us being wrong.

Why, though, would we still say that this somewhat indecisive woman, of middling intellectual attainments, and mistaken views, would make a good Prime Minister? It is partly of course because she holds some very important opinions, very important principles, which we share. There is no politician who is more completely a democrat, who understands better or is more fully committed to the idea of British representative democracy. She is a firm believer in the Atlantic alliance, and she is committed to Britain's membership of the European Community. She is a supporter of a mixed economy, with an important role for private as well as state ownership.

Personality one can relate to

Yet a Prime Minister's opinions and principles are not all that matter. Mrs Williams has a personal character that very large numbers of British people can relate to, can give their confidence to. Even when they disagree with her view of a political matter, the British feel that she approaches it with the might of a giant. We all know that we are not like Mrs Thatcher; we are not as strong-minded, as vigorous, as determined as she is, in many ways we are not as admirable, but we feel that our gentler approach to life is nevertheless a better one. We may suspect that we are not like Mrs Williams; we are not as good natured or as compassionate, but we hope that we share some of the generosity of her attitude to public affairs.

This is particularly important at the present moment. The British, as one can see from their defensiveness and unease, are deeply distressed by the state of their country. It is not only a question of economics or

unemployment, bitter though unemployment is. The British have lost confidence in themselves. None of their other leaders talks to them in their own true language, a language of fair dealing, of friendliness, of fair dealing, of balance. Mrs Thatcher is a health visitor; she is, as she said herself, the kind of nurse who bounces you out of bed the day after the operation. Mr Foot is a rum old canter, apparently modelling himself on Sir Henry Irving's well-loved performance as King Lear. He carries his blasted heath from television studio to television studio. Mrs Williams talks to the British people in their own accents, sometimes muddled, often courageous, always human and always kind.

It is important to consider whether she would make a good Prime Minister, because it is quite likely that she will become one. Yesterday, she left the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party, a step which has obviously caused her great pain, as it would inevitably do. This is, however, the vital moment. The campaign of the Social Democrats to win power must run from the time when their natural national leader has taken the irrevocable step.

Potential support still exists

It is, of course, by no means certain that the new party will succeed, but it may. *The Times* has been monitoring the prospects of a Liberal-Social Democrat alliance intermittently since 1972; even then it was clear that there was great potential support, support which is still growing. Clearly it is essential that there should be an alliance. The Liberals still have the power to destroy their own great opportunity.

The latest ORAC poll is very striking. It suggests that such an alliance would now win 39 per cent of votes for Parliament against 27 per cent for the Conservatives. It also shows that more of this support goes to the Social Democrats than to the Liberals. It is difficult to convert proportions of the vote into seats, but a rough approximation can be made. The Liberal-Social Democrat alliance would on this basis be likely to win about 400 seats and would have about the same overall majority as the Labour Party had in 1945. The Labour Party would hold about 180 seats, and might be lucky to hold that many.

What would happen to the Conservatives? They would poll 21 per cent, which may be compared with the 19.3 per cent the Liberals polled under Mr Jeremy Thorpe in February 1974. Mr Thorpe won fourteen seats; on a rather generous estimate the Conservatives might expect to win twenty, mostly no doubt in seaside resorts. If this were to occur, the leadership of the Conservative Party after the election of 1984 might be fought out between Mr Terence Higgins of Worthing, and Mr Jerry Wiggin of Weston-super-Mare. Not a bad choice, all things considered.

This may seem absurd: the trouble is that our electoral system is absurd. It can accommodate, though not without considerable injustice, a two-party contest; it cannot manage a three-party contest, as has been

painfully evident to the Liberals for many years. The party which comes third is liable to be wiped out.

No-one can now tell in what order the three parties would in fact come if at the next election a Liberal-Social Democratic alliance had been formed. The Labour Party might win, and give us wild-eyed Bannocracy for five disastrous years. The Conservatives might win, but only if employment recovers far better than now seems likely. The Liberal-Social Democrats might well win; as far back as the ORC poll of 1972, nine years ago, the support was already to be observed.

We wrote then, under the heading of "Twelve Million Jenkinstons", that on certain assumptions, "the result would seem to be 35 per cent Lib-Lab, 27 per cent Conservative, 23.5 per cent Soc-Lab", and concluded that "an Orpington style General Election is unlikely, but it is not inconceivable if the moderates of the left feel that they have been forced to unite". It has taken nine years for the pressures we then described to force the leading (and best) moderates to recognize and accept the need for a new party.

They have now done so, and an Orpington-style general election is not only not inconceivable, but manifestly possible. There are two factors which could combine to produce a Liberal-Social Democrat landslide. The two old parties are widely seen as having failed, as being two grimacing skeletons of political despair. The failure of the old always makes people search for the new. There is also a critical threshold of potential power which the Liberals have never quite reached. If the polls at the start of the next election campaign showed such an alliance to be in the lead that could generate an explosion of additional support.

Certainly the next election will be an all-British game of Russian roulette if the Liberal-Social Democrat alliance is formed and the electoral system remains unchanged. Any of the three contenders could win as many as 400 seats or fewer than fifty, perhaps fewer than twenty. Why should the nation's fate be left to this lethal gamble? It is still open to the Conservative Party to reform the system themselves, and to choose the reform they believe to be fair. They still refuse to do so; Mrs Thatcher refuses to consider it. Does she have the right to gamble that the fear of Mr Benn will force the electorate to keep the Conservatives in power? Will the electorate be convinced by a strategy of potential suicide? Why should they be?

Beyond the quality of the leaders and the form of the electoral system, there is the question of national unity. Mr Foot divides the nation; so does Mrs Thatcher. Mrs Thatcher may well leave great achievements, as did Mr Heath, but she has the character of a partisan and not of a peacemaker. We may believe that it is in the moderate right that the best political policy is to be found. But the nation believes in its own unity, and may take a terrible revenge at the next election on those who represent division.

successful, improving social services, keeping unemployment down and preventing too much inflation. In his foreign policy he has chopped and changed in his desire to maintain Maltese independence in the face of predatory designs from elsewhere. After getting rid of the British and ending the use of Malta as a Nato base he became friendly with Libya. But then he quarrelled with Libya over conflicting claims to the seabed, and last year he negotiated an agreement with Italy, still not ratified by the Italian Parliament, by which Italy guaranteed Maltese neutrality. Most recently he made a deal with the Russians allowing them to refuel merchant ships in Malta—possibly as a counterweight to the arrangement with Italy.

He has never been easy to deal with, either for foreigners or for his fellow Maltese. In his latest move on the law courts he has clearly overstepped the mark, and the hope must be that he will accept that he has and withdraw the Bill. He did that once before when a Bill was introduced which penalized lawyers who had displeased the government, and which caused an outcry. It is even more necessary now that the courts are threatened.

While it would be wrong for the West to urge Poland upon dangerous courses for which that country should then have to bear the consequences without Western assistance, it lies perfectly within the moral privileges of the Poles to take bold action if they wish to take a risk to themselves or to the West.

We would not require them to live under Soviet hegemony indefinitely because of risks to a stability upon which we depend. Yours sincerely, KEVIN R. GRANT, 27 St John's Road, Sidcup, Kent, January 30.

Keeping house and home together

From Professor M. Partington
Sir, The difficulties facing Mrs Jean Lawrence in seeking repossession of her home in Basingstoke, have been widely reported (February 4, 5, 6). As so frequently happens in matters concerning the Rent Acts the state of the law is not as has been reported. I do not wish to comment directly on Mrs Lawrence's case since I have no detailed knowledge of the problem. But I think the following points should be made clear.

1. An owner-occupier who lets his accommodation for a fixed period, and who completes certain formalities before the lease is granted, is entitled to repossession of his property at the end of the period. The same principle applies to those who have bought dwellings in anticipation of retirement, and to servicemen who have to leave their homes temporarily.

2. Since 1964 it has been the policy of the law (now contained in the Protection from Eviction Act 1977) that where leases come to an end landlords should not take the law into their own hands. If tenants refuse to leave a court order should be obtained. Failure to observe this procedure may lead to criminal prosecution.

3. Because of the difficulties this procedure may cause, a special procedure has been created to deal with repossession by owner-occupiers. It may be that these procedures are not working or are not being utilized efficiently; but the principles embodied in the law are wrong.

4. A more general point. Housing law is frequently criticized for being complex. This may be due in part to defective drafting practices. But it should be remembered that laws such as the Rent Acts are attempts to balance a complex range of interests: those of tenants, those of landlords and those of society as a whole. The law cannot be expected to function sensibly if there is widespread misunderstanding and misrepresentation as to the content of that law.

If laws as they appear on the statute book do not function in a socially just way, of course they should be reformed. But before existing laws are condemned as unworkable we must consider what the law is, not what the mass media say it is.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN PARTINGTON,
Department of Law,
Brunel University,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex,
February 6.

Burgess disclosures

From Dr R. Owendale
Sir, Perhaps Guy Burgess's access to key policy documents was even more extensive than that suggested by your item of February 2. Burgess knew US analysis of Russian aid. In 1949 the policy planning committee of the British Government under Strang drew up a paper on the position in the Far East. The paper was written by a man who was argued that Britain was no longer a force to be reckoned with in the area, could not offer military resistance in the case of a full-scale attack, and that there was a need to secure United States participation.

This document is still regarded as so sensitive that it remained closed in the Cabinet Paper files in the Public Record Office when the 1949 material was made available. It was supposed to have been sent to the Foreign Office in November 1949, but mysteriously went missing. Hitherto recalled passing it to Burgess of the Far Eastern division.

A subsequent security investigation revealed that several top secret papers had been "going astray". Burgess claimed that the paper had only been in his hands for a few minutes. In the end security accepted the explanation that it had been consigned to confidential sources in the area, but also that security was rather lax in the Foreign Office at the time.

Yours faithfully,
R. OWENDALE,
The University College of Wales,
Department of International
Relations,
Llandysul Building,
Aberystwyth,
February 3.

Fading fast

From Mr R. J. Duffield
Sir, Your readers will be aware of the campaign led by Mr Martin Scorsese to preserve the colour quality of cinematic film (*Arts page report*, January 29). He has drawn attention through the press to the serious deterioration and fading of colour in the print of such films as *Jaws*.

It has been stated that the problem is apparently in films produced after the "smog" negative was introduced by Eastman Kodak in 1949. Productions filmed in the three strip Technicolor system prior to this date have deteriorated very little.

I would like to point out that, although not curing the problem of dye stability in colour negatives, producers can still protect the original negative by ordering three strip silver separation masters from which further copies can be produced at any time and which will continue to preserve the colour of the original negative without loss of quality.

The cost to the production company is insignificant in relation to the whole and an essential budget item for responsible producers who wish to preserve their investment in the age.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. DUFFIELD, Chairman,
Technicolor Ltd,
PO Box 7,
Bath Road,
Westburyon,
Wiltshire,
February 3.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Safeguarding historic buildings

From Mr Richard Barr
Sir, On January 14 the twelfth-century priory at Castle Acre, one of Norfolk's most important historic monuments, was "closed" indefinitely by the Department of the Environment when the custodian retired. No previous warning was given to this parish council or to anyone else in the village. In November last year another important Norfolk monument, the castle at Castle Rising, suffered the same fate.

We have now heard from the Department of the Environment that until they have "carried out a review of custody, staff they will make no permanent or even casual appointments of custodians anywhere in the country."

It is possible to understand such action where historical monuments are seldom visited by the public, but Castle Acre priory was visited by nearly 34,000 people last year and the Castle Rising castle received 46,000 visitors.

The Department of the Environment has a legal responsibility to maintain these monuments, whether they are open or not. It is difficult to see the economic sense in keeping them closed when the salary which the custodian must receive

Tourism is now the fastest growing part of our economy and earns more for each year than all the sales of British cars. But the tourists will not visit the country if the attractions they wish to see are closed.

Castle Acre cannot understand the department's thinking and we want to see our priory reopened without delay. We also think that others who have ancient monuments in the areas should join in our fight. We would be glad to hear from Mr Headlam's side.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BARR, Clerk,
Castle Acre Parish Council,
Mill House,
Castle Acre,
King's Lynn,
Norfolk,
February 3.

From Mr M. C. Horton and Mr E. C. Norton
Sir, We welcome Dr Henderson's suggestion (February 3) concerning the suitability of St Augustine's Abbey for the celebration of Mass at Canterbury during the Pope's forthcoming visit. The significance of the abbey in the early history of the Christian Church in England is beyond question. It is one of the most important sites in the care of

Criticism of MEPs

From Sir Fred Catherwood, MEP for Cambridgeshire (Conservative)
Sir, As chairman of the committee of the European Parliament, which briefs and debriefs most of its overseas delegations I'd be glad if I could put on record a more balanced view against some of the wilder criticisms of the last two days (pages February 5).

The European Community, acting together, is by far the most powerful trading block in the world. That is why we act together. But we do not, like the industrial member states, have embassies in every capital and consulates in every major city. The work of the Community is done by the delegations from major nations and groups of nations and sends its own delegations in return.

The coming delegation to Japan is to be led by Sir Fred Warner, former British Ambassador in Tokyo, and he has his delegation have the very difficult task of persuading the Japanese voluntarily to rein in their extremely successful export drive, especially their car exports. I know from the discussions with the last Japanese delegation to Europe that this will be tough, but absolutely vital to both temper and retain our open trading

Funeral expenses

From Mr H. Leverton
Sir, Much semantic confusion exists about the "cost of a funeral" and the "burial charges" and "cost of dying" (which is actually bill). Most people consider this to be the figure at the foot of the funeral director's account, which comprises (a) what he charges, plus (b) what he pays to the undertakers mainly to local councils for cemetery and crematorium charges and medical and clergy fees. Included in his own service is the comparatively unimportant expense of a coffin, which is not the cost Mrs Goodwin's friend £286 (letter, January 28), but (a) above.

Factually, the answer to your correspondent's question is to buy "granny bonds" which will maintain their value relatively, whilst funeral directors' charges may be expected (God and the

Surviving flying boats

From Miss Jillian Robertson
Sir, The Short Sandringham in your picture today (February 3) cannot be the last British built flying boat still surviving. There is another. It is a Sunderland conversion and owned by Edward Hudson, who is about to cross the Atlantic in it from the Caribbean.

At the end of this month, with the help of the pilot, a "flight engineer", a celestial navigator, and a man at the back to throw out the anchor, he will cross via the Azores. Because of the tremendous cost—it only goes a mile a gallon—it will probably be the last crossing of the Atlantic by one of the old flying boats. Extra fuel tanks are being installed as one leg of the journey alone will take between 16 and 20 hours.

Once in France, Mr Hudson will apply for a Civil Aviation Authority certificate of airworthiness and bring it back to England or fly it on trips down the Nile. Yours faithfully,
JILLIAN ROBERTSON,
Park Farm,
Horningsham,
Warrington,
Wiltshire,
February 3.

Education cuts

From Mr F. G. Husbands
Sir, It is encouraging to note that, at long last, concern is being expressed in your columns over the slow erosion of our educational system by successive governments. Your reports on Leicestershire (January 28), and on the "Manifesto for change" by Lord Butler and others (January 30), as well as correspondence on music education all indicate that matters have almost reached the point of no return in so far as the performing arts are concerned. With drama, that point has been reached. For 30 years and more every responsible authority has stressed the value of the arts and, in particular, drama. To those of us involved it was even possible to see that some local authorities were making progress and developing this aspect of their educational work. Mr St John-Stevens said: "... education in the arts can no longer be regarded as the acquisition of specialist knowledge unrelated to everyday life. It is a vital ingredient in living a fuller life, in building a richer society." But that was 12 months ago.

Now we have Leicestershire struggling to retain its music and drama, whilst in the intervening period no fewer than 14 other authorities have reduced their music and drama staffs or prematurely retired their solitary drama adviser. Expensive drama studios and equipment are unused whilst local amateur groups would be glad to use them as a rehearsal space from doing so by the high cost of hire.

Drama in education does not have the prominent spokesman that music does, but surely every thinking person who is making something out of cutting creative practical subjects out of the curriculum because they are not directly related to a career. For when did chemistry help a child's cooperative skills, and "O level" music or physics "develop the inner resources needed to make constructive use of free time?" Lord Butler and his supporters should be commended for their proposal, though I fear it may be too late to save drama.

Yours,
PETER G. HUSBANDS,
The Drama Board,
PO Box 44,
Banbury,
Oxfordshire,
February 3.

From Mr R. J. Crane
Sir, As the representative of the owner of Kelsall Lodge, at the recent public inquiry into the application for listed building consent to demolish the house I would like to comment on the letters from Mr R. J. Cook (January 24) and Dr A. J. Taylor (January 31).

In his letter Mr Taylor is questioning the inspector from the Department of the Environment, while recommending listed building consent not be granted, specifically asked the Secretary of State to consider the matter of personal hardship to the owner before making the final decision.

In his report the inspector agreed with my contention that Kelsall Lodge was an inferior example of the work of George Devey, an architect. Mr Husbands, obviously appreciated this point and his decision reflected the ability to remember that individuals also have the right to a happy existence, perhaps more than a second-rate collection of bricks and mortar.

It is of interest to note that Mr Cook was the representative of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society at the public inquiry. Unlike Mr Husbands and the inspector, he was never able to appreciate that the health and happiness of the owner of Kelsall Lodge were not irrelevant factors in considering the application for listed building consent.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. CRANE,
Kelsall Lodge,
Hasted Keynes,
West Sussex,
February 4.

system through the present slump. Other delegations have equally important jobs in preserving and improving relations with countries on which we depend for vital raw materials and Third World countries which depend so heavily on us for help and development.

Compared with permanent representation delegations, though, no doubt more expensive than they need be, a relatively cheap makeshift system and my committee would like to see more permanent representation in key capitals. And members of Parliament do not stick to their brief as closely as an ambassador. But the quality and competence of the delegations is very high and their impact, including their political impact, in spreading the ideals of democracy and the rule of law, is considerable.

Whether we recognize it or not, the European Community is a major power in the world. The world has a right to know what the world expects return visits, which cannot be refused.

Yours truly,
FRED CATHERWOOD, Chairman,
Committee on External Economic Affairs,
European Parliament,
United Oxford and Cambridge,
71 Pall Mall, SW1.

micro-chip willing) to continue to decrease. It is interesting to calculate that they are now just half as much, in real terms, as when Beveridge visualized a death grant equivalent to five weeks wages to pay for the major part of a funeral (a and b).

At today's rates that would mean about £500, with consequent enhanced contributions, death grant being the sum of the family savings—people pay for their own funerals in one way or another just as they pay for their own pensions.

The incidentally prompts the calculation that not the cost has been treated as "generously" as the pension, it would now be £417, not £30.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN H. LEVERTON,
(National Association of Funeral Directors),
181 Haversock Hill, NW3,
February 2.

From Sir Cyril Black
Sir, May I, as a Free Churchman (Baptist), express my strong support for Mr Burgess's letter (February 3)?

It is and for long has been the general practice at Free Church Communion services for the presiding minister to address any non-members or visitors in the congregation in some form of words such as "We invite to the Lord's table any Christians who are seeking to follow, and to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth." Why should not this practice be adopted by all churches?

The Apostle Paul writes: "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself." (1 Corinthians XI: 28-29).

It is not for the church to judge the personal responsibility of the individual communicant, whom we can safely leave to God's judgment.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL BLACK,
Beaumont House,
179-187 Arthur Road, SW19,
February 3.

Pornographic displays

From Mr Raymond Blackburn
Sir, Public house exhibitions and advertisements are already illegal both at common law and by the Vagrancy Act (Mortuary's Police Law, p128, and Stone's Justices Manual, p4521).

Why then should Parliament wish to pass a law making something which is already an offence which is an offence already? Presumably because the law is being so openly defied. Mrs Shirley Summerskill (report, January 21) received no adequate answer from the government as to the reasons for this.

It is understandable that the sponsors should wish the penalties to be increased, but if that be the object a sledgehammer is being taken to crack a nut. A Bill of one or two clauses would suffice.

But if the object of some be to change the wording of the law so that indecency is no longer the criterion but some new formula is used then the lawyers would have a field day to the advantage of the pornographers. The proposed phrasing "obscene" is vague and subjective so that libertarians should not approve of it. I know of no senior judge who does not approve of the word "indecent" in this context of public display.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND BLACKBURN,
30 Bonfield Road,
Chiswick, W4,
February 2.

Centre party views

From Mr E. M. Cockburn
Sir, Before they go any further the Gang of Three should see *Man and Superman* at the National Theatre.

Here is a quotation from Act III—Mendelssohn, the other hand, we have three social democrats among us. They are not on speaking terms; and they have put before us three distinct and incompatible views of social democracy.

Yours faithfully,
E. M. COCKBURN,
1 Beechwood Avenue,
Kew,
Richmond, Surrey,
February 7.

Bear facts

From the Reverend Aubrey Moody
Sir, Surely Mr John Rae is mistaken, in his article, on January 31, in saying that "Winnie was Christopher Robin's favourite polar bear at the London Zoo" when I was a small boy, before *Winnie-the-Pooh* was written. I was taken as a treat to the Mappin Terrace where a keeper kept a brown bear on his long passage, and then pretended not to see as she made her way to a corn-bin, opened the lid and snuck her head inside.

Christopher, the keeper called her and she ambled barefoot and gently opened my hand with her paw to get the lump of sugar that she knew would be there. Her name was Winnie and she had been the mascot of Canadian regiment in the first war.

Yours faithfully,
AUBREY MOODY,
Peering Vicarage,
Colchester, Essex.

Deconstruction

From Mrs J. M. Womack
Sir, Mrs's structuralism (cartoon, February 5) really is out of touch with reality. The Rex Cinema, once indeed a favourite haunt of Cambridge undergraduates, was demolished some time ago; the site is now a decidedly unimproved vacant space.

Yours faithfully,
JANNA WOMACK,
New Hall, Cambridge,
February 5.

Poland's right to choose

From Mr Kevin R. Grant
Sir, You report the French President as warning Poland not to upset the Soviet apparatus by attempting to cast as drift from socialism. Poland had to be conscious of the limitations of its geographical and strategic situation, he added.

While it would be wrong for the West to urge Poland upon dangerous courses for which that country should then have to bear the consequences without Western assistance, it lies perfectly within the moral privileges of the Poles to take bold action if they wish to take a risk to themselves or to the West.

We would not require them to live under Soviet hegemony indefinitely because of risks to a stability upon which we depend. Yours sincerely, KEVIN R. GRANT, 27 St John's Road, Sidcup, Kent, January 30.

Multinationals
and the
political risk,
page 17

Stock markets	
FT Ind 480.9 up 0.6	FT Gilts 69.17 up 5.87
Sterling	
\$2.3405 down 35 points	Index 104.1 up 0.3
Dollar	
Index 99.1 down 0.2	DNI 2.1372 down 15 pts
Gold	
\$516.50 up \$14	
Money	
3-month sterling 13.3-13.4	3-month Euro \$ 171-17
6-month sterling 16.1-16.2	6-month Euro \$ 171-16.2

IN BRIEF

Next Ford
car engine
may have
plastic parts

The first stage of an inexpensive plastic car engine has been developed by Ford. It could be used in the next generation of Ford engines which will go into production in about four years time.

Instead of using expensive aluminium for the inlet manifold, the new engine uses hard plastic material, developed jointly with two other companies.

The material is 25 per cent cheaper than aluminium.

"We think we can claim this as an important world first and it is all British," a Ford spokesman said.

Ford, which has been working with Fibreglass, part of the Pilkington group, and with RTR Permair, a Gloucestershire firm of plastic moulders, believes that all external parts of the engine could eventually be made of plastic.

British exports surge

British exports to the Middle East oil-producing countries were up 31 per cent in value last year compared with a general rise in British exports of only 16 per cent.

Caparo's rival bid

Caparo, the private investment company of Mr Sir Paul, has launched a £14.5m cash bid for Central Manufacturing & Trading, The West Midlands conglomerate. The terms are worth 55p a share—6p more than a cash offer from Hanson.

Financial Editor, page 17

Dorset oil search

The search for oil in Dorset has spread to the west of the county. British Gas already believes it has discovered the country's largest on-shore oil field, on the Isle of Purbeck, in east Dorset, and is to conduct vibroseis surveys around the village of Beaminster.

Drug trade record

Pharmaceutical manufacturers set a record £522.9m surplus of exports over imports, according to provisional figures issued by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry yesterday. Exports totalled £745.4m, an increase of 16.7 per cent on the previous year, while imports were 4.4 per cent down at £222.5m.

Perkins lays off 400

Four hundred men, about 5 per cent of the workforce, are being laid off this week at the Perkins diesel engine plant in Peterborough.

Higher NCB limit

The Government is to increase the National Coal Board's external financing limit by £4m next year to £886m to take account of increased payments under the pneumoconiosis compensation scheme.

Telecom delay

British Telecom has agreed to have some of its exchange equipment delivered later than planned to reduce its immediate expenditure by £100m.

Wall Street lower

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 5.12 points down to 947.18. The S&P 500 was 1.2882. The E was 0.529750.

Inflation still on
downward trend
despite surge in
wholesale prices

By Melvyn Westlake

Factory-gate prices rose in January by the largest amount since last spring, as companies pushed through a spate of new year price increases.

The bunching of these rises caused the official index of wholesale prices to jump by 1.4 per cent in January, compared to monthly rises in the index of 0.5 per cent or less since last summer.

However, the wave of increases in January was not enough to disrupt the longer-term downward trend.

The rise of factory-gate prices in the last 12 months, of 11.25 per cent, was the lowest year-on-year increase since early 1979, and compares with a peak rate of 19 per cent at the beginning of 1980.

Last month also proved to be a one for increases in industry's costs.

The index of fuels and materials climbed by 2.5 per cent. This was two-and-a-half times the monthly increase recorded in November and December.

But here, too, the longer-term trend still appears to be downward. Over 12 months the rise in industrial fuel and material costs has come down to 8.75 per cent from almost 30 per cent a year earlier.

The main reason for the industry's higher costs is the fresh round of oil price rises. Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries raised the price of their crude oil from January 1 and Saudi Arabia backdated its own price increase to November 1.

Increases by the Opec members—which led to a rise in the price of North Sea oil—have more than offset lower prices for other materials bought by manufacturers.

Much of manufacturing industry saw the prices of its materials, other than crude oil,

fall by 1 per cent in January. The strength of sterling contributed to this; but the weaker tone of the month more recently could prevent this happening again in February.

Whitehall remains optimistic that the downward trend of wholesale price inflation will continue for some months. This in turn will help to maintain the improvement in the level of inflation in retail prices.

The latest retail price index will be published next Friday. In recent months it has fallen faster than even the Government dared to hope, and there is considerable confidence in some quarters that it could be down into single figures by the end of the year.

The main source of price inflation for some time has been the public sector, where the price of goods and services has risen by much more than the general level of inflation.

Energy, telecommunications and transport prices have all risen quite sharply, and more such increases are in the pipeline.

The Chancellor no doubt will take this into account in his Budget.

While it seems very likely that the excise duty on alcohol, tobacco and petrol will be increased broadly in line with inflation, it is unlikely that the Chancellor will want to go further than that.

Separate figures published yesterday for the volume and value of retail goods show that the value of retail goods generally rose by 13.8 per cent in 1980, compared with 1979, while traded volume goods rose by only 0.6 per cent.

The volume of sales was down a little in December, but business in the final quarter was broadly unchanged compared to second and third quarters, reflecting a fall in unemployment and an increase in individual savings.

Tables, page 21

Insurance staff set for rises of 11-14 per cent

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Staff in the insurance industry are likely to win pay increases of between 11 and 14 per cent this year, which would be well above the single figure settlements being urged by the Government.

Negotiations, which resume next week, covering more than 180,000 clerical staff in the main high street banks are expected to be influenced by settlements reached so far in insurance companies.

About 250,000 people work in insurance and with pay aspirations in several large companies due to start later in the year, current pay negotiations can only be seen as an indication of the way in which settlements are likely to move.

The companies are apparently arguing with union negotiators that the insurance sector is not immune from feeling the pressures on the economic

situation, while the unions have been pointing to proof of returns from the various companies involved in negotiations.

Royal Insurance, which negotiates with Mr Clive Jenkins's Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) recently imposed a 14 per cent pay deal for about 9,000 staff after a union ballot which rejected the offer.

In the ballot ASTMS made it clear that if the offer was rejected, it would result in industrial action, but for this 60 per cent of those entitled to vote would have to give their support. The vote fell short of that figure and in view of the impasse, the company decided to impose the settlement, which runs from January 1.

Negotiations at Eagle Star, covering more than 6,000 members of the Eagle Star Staff Association, have been referred to the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) after rejection of the company's offer of 11 per cent from January and a further 3 per

cent from next July, which will be compounded.

There have been threats of industrial action by the normally moderate staff association, although these have been held in abeyance pending the outcome of the Acas talks. The company has said that its offer is "final" but staff association negotiators agree that they have a mandate for industrial action from the ballot.

At General Accident, ASTMS and the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff are bargaining their members on a basic 12.5 per cent offer linked to improvements in some fringe benefits such as London weighting.

Guardian Royal Exchange has offered 10 per cent from January 1, with increases in London weighting and other improvements in benefits and the union there, the Banking Insurance and Finance Union (Bifu) representing about 6,000 staff, is consulting its members, after making an appeal to

the company for an improvement, which was rejected.

Other large claims from the unions are believed to be in the pipeline. Norwich Union has received a claim for 20 per cent increases, improved holidays and a shorter working week, and a similar claim is expected to be submitted by Bifu for its members at the Phoenix.

In addition to the basic increases, unions in insurance companies are mostly seeking improvements in benefits not available to many workers in other areas of industry, such as fees for membership of private health insurance schemes.

Negotiations in the insurance sector are being carefully watched by banking unions which have rejected an 8.5 per cent offer from April 1. Bifu and the Clearing Banks Union are to reopen negotiations on Wednesday, a day before staff start on a Bifu claim for 20 per cent with the Scottish clearing banks.

Peugeot in
talks on
Talbot plant

By Edward Townsend

Directors of Peugeot Citroën the French motor group which owns Talbot UK, were reminded by British government ministers yesterday of their employment and financial obligations in Britain.

The company, which bought the United Kingdom operations from Chrysler in 1978 is facing substantial losses on both its French and British activities and there are fears that it may close the car assembly plant at Linwood in Renfrewshire as part of a move to concentrate production in France.

The Scottish plant employs about one third of Talbot's 15,000 workers.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and a team of ministers including Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland yesterday met Mr Jean-Paul Paragyre, president of Peugeot, but apparently learned nothing new.

The indications from France are that for 1980 the Peugeot group is likely to have lost about £200m (£182.7m and £200.1m). In 1979 the group made a profit of £1.100m.

Provincial leaves Life Offices
Association over commission

By Margaret Stone

Provincial Life Assurance Company yesterday resigned from the Life Offices Association after disagreement over the commission levels laid down by the L.O.A., which were renegotiated last November.

It is the third unit-linked office to leave the L.O.A. since then. Abbey Life announced its departure in December and Schroder Life's decision was made public last week. In May last year Crown Life also left the L.O.A.

There were fears in the association last night that Hill Samuel Life Assurance, the fourth company to disagree with the policy over the new commission structure last November, would leave too.

Mr John Marshall, executive chairman of Hill Samuel Life, confirmed last night that there would be a meeting to discuss his company's stand on commissions within the next two weeks.

Mr Michael Oppé, secretary general of the L.O.A., said that Provincial's departure had been received with regret. He said that if too many companies left the association the agreement would have to be recon-

sidered. "But we have not reached that stage yet," he added.

Mr Don Shore, life manager and actuary of Provincial Life, said yesterday that the company had been considering leaving the association for some time, and that it had not been influenced by the departure of Abbey Life.

Its particular grievance with the commission structure is that it does not permit new companies to pay extra for single premium business, although such a concession applies to regular premium contracts.

Apart from paying more direct commission, Provincial intends to introduce volume riders—which means that brokers achieving a certain level of sales will be paid more still.

In response to this the association said that its members believed that agreed commission ceilings and the prohibition of volume overrides "were in the best interests of the consumer".

Mr Shore said that several bigger offices were already "indirectly increasing the amount of overall remuneration by way of investment reciprocity".



Mr John Marshall: meeting to discuss his company's stance.

ation by way of investment reciprocity".

Mr Syd Lipworth, joint managing director of Hambro Life, the main unit-linked office within the association, said last night: "We're still with the angels." He regretted that companies were moving out, saying that it would not have much long-term impact on their business, but was damaging to the industry in the short run.

Labour 'will
renationalize
Aerospace'

By Michael Clarke

Peter Shore, the Shadow Chancellor, gave a warning yesterday that the Labour Party would renationalize British Aerospace when it was returned to office.

He called the decision to put the state-owned aircraft manufacturer up for sale deplorable and said it would "in no way assist the production of exports of the products of this great industry". He warned investors that they would not make a justified capital gain at the expense of the British taxpayer.

The traded options committee's plans to start dealing in shares of British Aerospace suffered a setback yesterday when Hoare Govett, the stockbrokers, lodged an official complaint with the Stock Exchange quotations committee.

Hoare Govett's objections to dealing in British Aerospace were thought to be twofold.

First, it believed it was technically impossible to deal in the shares on the traded options market before they were fully registered on April 5.

Secondly, it is understood that part of the Government's terms to the four merchant banks and three brokers for the issue of the 100 million Aerospace shares included the necessity for a smooth launch. There was to be no speculation about the possibility of renationalization.

The matter has now been turned over to the full Stock Exchange Council. This means that dealers in the traded option market will be unable to conduct any business in the shares when they are launched next week.

In the meantime, Hoare Govett remained confident that the new shares, to be offered at 150p, would receive a warm reception despite the complaint.

Financial Editor, page 17

600 jobs go as Ansell's
brewery closes

By David Hewson

Ansell's, one of the country's largest breweries, is to close with the loss of 600 jobs as a result of many years of recurring industrial conflict, Allied Breweries, the owners, said.

The brewery, based at Aston Cross, Birmingham, has been closed since January by a strike of production workers.

1977 a dispute involving Ansell's staff resulted in the Transport and General Workers Union being temporarily suspended from the TUC.

Allied now faces the problem of supplying its 1,300 Midland pubs from its own excess capacity at nearby Burton-on-Trent and by buying in beer from other brewers.

Matthew Polaris, vice-chairman of the TGWU branch covering Ansell's, said yesterday: "So far as we are concerned, the battle is only just beginning. We will be doing our utmost to close down the

entire Allied Breweries operation in the Midlands."

Last month Ansell's demanded the introduction of a four-day week for production and distribution staff. The move was rejected by the TGWU workforce which went on strike.

The dispute was made official last week when the company issued a dismissal notice.

Sir Derek Holden-Brown, vice-chairman of Allied, said yesterday: "Only about 28 of the 1,000 on strike signified a willingness to return. It was then, coupled with the outcome of a mass meeting of employees, which demonstrated to us beyond all doubt that there was only one course open to us."

The closure of the brewery is irreversible, he said, reaching the point of no return.

A company statement said that the TGWU branch representing employees at the brewery had been "totally uncooperative".

Taiwan group after Decca

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Tatung, one of Taiwan's largest companies and a leading Far East manufacturer of electronics goods, is close to concluding the purchase of the long-making Decca radio and television interests in Britain, including a television assembly plant at Bridgford, Shropshire, from Rascal Electronics. It is expected to pay about £13m.

Tatung has made considerable progress in the United States market for television sets but has yet to be as successful in the European market. Assembly facilities in Britain would give Tatung the European foothold it needs. The Bridgford factory produces around 100,000 sets a year, mostly colour.

The deal with Rascal would be only for plant and the other

Decca fixed assets, including a laboratory in Bradford, Yorkshire.

But Rascal, which has seen several earlier possible deals come to nothing, is for the moment only confirming that talks for the sale of Decca interests are "at an advanced stage". Among the companies which have shown interest were the Victor Company of Japan (JVC), Britain's Binatone and France's Thomson-Brandt.

Commercial paper rates now are up to four per cent below the prime rate and business loan demand at banks is bound to continue to decline until the gap is narrowed.

This is placing pressure on the banks to cut their prime rates swiftly.

GESTETNER HOLDINGS LIMITED

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at 11.00 a.m. on 26th March, 1981 at Gestetner House, 210 Euston Road, London N.W.1, for the purposes of:

1. Receiving and adopting the report and accounts.
2. Declaring the final dividends recommended in the directors' report.
3. Re-appointing Deloitte Haskins & Sells as auditors of the company until the conclusion of its next annual general meeting and authorising the directors to fix their remuneration.
4. Passing the following resolution to be proposed as an ordinary resolution, special notice having been given pursuant to sections 142 and 185 (5) of the Companies Act 1948:

THAT Mrs H. Gestetner, O.B.E., a director retiring by rotation, who has attained the age of 70 years be and is hereby re-elected a director of the company.

Holders of share warrants to bearer who wish to attend or be represented at the meeting without warrants should deposit with the company's registrars, Barclays Bank Limited, Registration Department, Radbroke Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 9EU, not later than seventy-two hours before the meeting, the certificate of a Banker, Solicitor or Stockbroker that such warrants are held to the order of the registrars.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint one or more proxies to attend and vote for him. A proxy need not be a member of the company. To be effective such proxies must be received by the registrars not less than forty-eight hours before the time fixed for the meeting.

Directors' contracts are available for inspection at the registered office until the date of the meeting and at the place of the meeting from 10.45 a.m. until its conclusion.

41 Fawley Road,
London N17 9LTBy order of the board,
J. A. BARNETT
Secretary

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	
Alexan Alkum	57p to 111p
Burnett Haskins	15p to 908p
Kilgob Gold	14p to 151p
Guinness Feast	10p to 131p
Kilgob	55p to 620p
Falls	
East Dazsa	5p to 51p
Electrolux	12p to 825p
Elit	8p to 175p
Incapac	11p to 415p
Husky Oil	10p to 652p

THE POUND	
Bank	Bank
buys	sells
Australia \$	2.07
Austria Sch	37.20
Belgium Fr	11.38
Canada \$	2.87
Denmark Kr	15.39
Finland Mk	9.88
France Fr	11.38
Germany DM	5.19
Greece Dr	118.00
Hongkong \$	12.70
Ireland Pd	1.39
Italy Lit	2495.00
Japan Yen	302.00
Netherlands Gld	5.64

Mr Coppola pledges his own property to keep the cameras turning
Film maker gambles on a happy ending

Five hundred workers at Francis Ford Coppola's Zentrop Studios have agreed to continue working on *One From The Heart*, his new film, even though they are not being paid. This film is at the heart of Mr Coppola's fiscal problems.

It started out as a simple story of love and jealousy set in Chicago, but by the time he began shooting, the story had moved to Las Vegas, become what is described as "a surreal fantasy" and acquired a budget of \$25m (£10m).

Of this \$25m was swallowed in recreating Las Vegas on half a dozen sound stages, complete with neon-drenched boulevards and a facsimile of the gambling town's airport.

There was no way I could do the kind of film I wanted on location," Mr Coppola explains.

"It does not really take place in Las Vegas but in its own emotional landscape, for which Vegas is simply a metaphor. So we had to create the totally artificial environment. If we are in trouble financially, it is my own fault."

Playing God comes expensive. Mr Coppola's crisis erupted when \$8m from tax shelter investors was withdrawn, leaving him struggling to meet his weekly payroll. To keep things running he pledged \$8m of his personal property to secure bank loans at a minimum of 21 per cent interest so he could carry on without declaring bankruptcy.

He had hoped that Metro Goldwyn Mayer and United Artists, his distribution partners, would help him out.

"AH I actually needed was

\$6m," Mr Coppola said. "I have \$30m (from his real estate holdings including a vineyard) but I can't touch any of it without \$6m to pay off my bank loan. I simply have a problem with liquidity and cash flow."

If he sounds bitter, he says it is because he feels he is on the verge of a breakthrough which could revolutionize the communications industry.

Calling the film factory he bought less than a year ago for \$6.7m "the world's first electronic studio," Mr Coppola said that *One From The Heart* would be the first electronically produced movie. Video equipment will be attached to film cameras and each scene automatically coded and stored electronically making possible virtually instant editing.

"It allows the film to be shot in five weeks and released in two months and while it is extremely expensive to set up, it will mean that films will be infinitely cheaper to make in the future," he said.

Mr Coppola said the new film would be "completely different from anything you have seen before, outside of *Lady and the Tramp* and *Snow White*."

Flashing it safe has never been his style. Once before in 1978 he mortgaged all his personal property, including his home to raise enough money to finish *Apocalypse Now* which cost \$31.5m and has finally turned a profit and grossed more than \$200m. But it is doubtful if he has ever come closer to closing

Ivor Davis
in Hollywood



EEC inquiry into fluid catalyst dumping

The European Commission has opened anti-dumping proceedings against American exporters to the EEC of catalytic cracking fluids, which are used in the refining of crude oil.

The Commission has evidence based on complaints by British and Dutch companies that silicon oxide and aluminium oxide fluids are being exported to the EEC at prices between 34 per cent and 61 per cent below their home price.

The Commission says that from no fluid catalyst imports into the EEC in 1977 the level reached 1,010 tonnes last year, depressing prices and threatening the survival of the European industry.

The American exporters will be given 30 days to offer an explanation of the price differences. If these are not satisfactory, the EEC may impose an anti-dumping levy.

Orders slowdown

French producer prices rose at an average monthly rate of only 0.6 per cent between October and early January, but French industrialists feel an acceleration to a rate of 3 per cent spread over January and February is likely, the national statistics institute said. Only 15 per cent of industrialists said they were working at full capacity, compared with 28 per cent a year before.

EEC aid for Eire

The European Investment Bank has granted the Republic of Ireland a loan of £25.6m to help finance telecommunications and water supply projects. The loans carry a 3 per cent interest rate subsidy, but the bank gave no details of the exact terms.

Yugoslavia loan

A consortium of Swiss banks has submitted an official offer to Yugoslavia for a medium-term loan of Sw Fr 200m (£43.5m). Part is to cover Yugoslavia's balance of payments deficit, but over 50 per cent will be for financing Swiss export contracts.

Australian coal pact

Six Japanese steel producers have reached an agreement with Thess Dampier Mitsui Coal of Australia to import 3.3 million tons of high-grade hard coking coal a year for 14 years beginning in October, 1983. The coal will be supplied from the riverside mine in Queensland.

China visit

Mr Saburo Okita, Japan's trade representative, will travel to Peking today to meet with senior Chinese officials on problems over the contracts which China has cancelled because of a shift in its economic priorities.

\$175m for Seat

Seat, the Spanish car manufacturer, said in New York it has signed a loan agreement for \$175m (£74.8m) with 33 international and United States banks. The eight-year credit carries a margin of 1 of one per cent above the United States prime rate and is guaranteed by Spain's Instituto Nacional de Industria (INI), the government holding company. INI is the majority shareholder in Seat.

S'Africa gold sales

South African gold sales in January were 65,000 ounces less than total output. Figures for gold holdings show a rise in total gold reserves to about 12 million ounces in January from about 12.5 million in December.

More Danish orders

New orders for Danish industry excluding shipyards in December, rose 9 per cent at current prices compared with a year earlier and 2 per cent decline in November.

Italian output slumps

Italian industrial output, seasonally adjusted, fell a provisional 6.4 per cent in December, after a 3.9 per cent November rise.

Dutch prices rise

The Dutch cost of living index rose 6.8 per cent to a provisional 137.9 (1975 = 100), in the year to mid-January, compared to 6.7 per cent in the year to mid-December.

Toyota link denied

Toyota has denied reports that it is planning to begin a joint car production venture in Spain and is negotiating with Seat, the Spanish maker.

Price rises slow

The rise in French retail prices is expected to slow to an annual 12.5 per cent in the first quarter this year from 13.6 per cent in the whole of 1980.

Swiss price index

Switzerland's consumer price index rose by an annual 5.1 per cent in January after 4.4 per cent in December.

W German prices up

West Germany's cost-of-living index rose 0.8 per cent in January, 5.8 per cent higher than a year ago.

Area has 'all the skills as well as big names in the components industry'

West Midlands bid for Nissan plant

The West Midlands, heartland of the British motor industry, is making a determined attempt to attract the proposed £200m Nissan car plant to the region. It has already selected three flat 800 acre greenfield sites and is preparing to send a delegation to Tokyo within three weeks.

Leaders of the county council have asked for an urgent meeting with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, and expect this to take place early next week.

They will point out that with unemployment in the region now over 12 per cent compared with the national average of 9.8 per cent, 100,000 redundancies last year and 40 per cent of all short time being worked in the West Midlands, an excellent case can be made for a government-aided project such as the Nissan plant to come to the area.

Councillor Alan Hope, leader of the Conservative-controlled council, said yesterday: "This is the most natural place in Britain for a car plant. We have all the skills required on the doorstep, together with all the big games in the component industry such as Lucas and GKN".

He said the sites chosen met all the criteria laid down by Nissan. They are at Essington, north of Wolverhampton and close to the M54; Manor Way, Halesowen, adjoining the M5 and Wislaw near the Sutton Coldfield bypass.

All three are at present restricted for agricultural use, but as Councillor Hope said: "My council is the planning authority and has the last word. There will be no problem over changing their use for industrial purposes".

None of them is in a designated development area and so would not qualify for special government assistance. This would seem to put the West Midlands at a serious disadvantage with South Wales, the acknowledged frontrunner in the race.

But civic leaders are determined to rectify this when they meet Sir Keith by insisting that the region's unemployment problems are now so acute that the Government would be justified in giving equal aid to a West Midlands site under section 8 of the Industry Act.

They claim that doubts about the industrial relations record of West Midlands carworkers are exaggerated and in any event are improving as recent big votes

against strike action have shown at BL's Longbridge plant.

They also point to the infinitely worse strike record of the satellite car plants which Midlands manufacturers were forced by government pressure to set up in development areas on Merseyside and in Scotland.

Datsun UK, the privately owned import company handling all Nissan motor products, said yesterday that it is receiving up to 60 letters a day and dozens of telephone calls from people who want to offer their services. They include big construction companies, component suppliers and trade union officials.

Nissan has said that its team will examine all possibilities before choosing a site. The team has still to be set up, but it is reliably reported that McKinsey and Company, the American-owned international management consultants have been retained to coordinate the work.

In the meantime, the Invest in Britain Bureau at the Department of Industry is acting as the receiving house for all correspondence.

Clifford Webb



"Hover-mail" service: The world's first regular mail-by-hovercraft service was launched yesterday by the Post Office. It operates between the Isle of Wight and Southampton.

About 100 mail bags a day can be carried across the Solent at speeds of about 60 mph, taking just seven minutes to cross one of Britain's busiest stretches of water.

Apart from the speed advantage—the hovercraft crosses the Solent about seven times faster than the ferry—the new service is more reliable in foggy conditions.

The service is being given a one-month trial and if it is successful it will become a permanent addition to the mail operation.

Above, Captain George Bottemo (right) watches mail being loaded at Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Directors criticize training Bill

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Industrial training boards impose unnecessary expense on industry and represent an unacceptable degree of state intervention, the Institute of Directors say in a report circulated to MPs during the second reading of the Government's Employment and Training Bill yesterday.

The report says the boards should be replaced by a voluntary structure. Although considered a step in the right direction, the directors believe that the Government's proposals to display a number of deficiencies and the report says that the ITCs' levy-raising powers should be abolished.

The Bill is criticized for giving no indication that the levy system is to be reviewed with a view to abolition.

The IOD believes the boards should be replaced by different institutions, possibly at a local and cross-sectoral level. It is concerned about "the implication that the nature of intervention is to remain unchanged albeit in a few key sectors (not even across key sectors)".

The IOD echoes other employer organizations, including the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Confederation of British Industry, in opposing proposals to transfer the operating costs of the boards to industry. It adds that the timing of the proposed shift "as a time when industry can ill afford extra costs makes it particularly objectionable".

Like other employer organizations, the IOD is also concerned that there is inadequate mechanism for ensuring that the boards are accountable to their industries.

It suggests that training and planning advice to companies might be provided on a fee-paying basis, in the belief that this might encourage companies to develop an awareness of training needs.

The report outlines three areas in which it says action is needed. These are in the vocational orientation of education; in the adoption of a flexible outlook to the acquisition and use of skills; and manpower planning.

An across-the-board system of testable standards should be introduced which can be attained on the basis of an individual's ability and competence, rather than on the length of time served in an apprenticeship.

Employers need to make improvements in manpower planning and these should be based on access to sound up-to-date information.

"In this area the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) could, as it has suggested, play a leading part in the collection and dissemination of information. The present structure of ITCs is not necessary for this purpose."

In making its representations the IOD is clearly hoping to influence not only the content of the Bill but also the Green Paper on the objectives of the United Kingdom's training system, which is due to be published in April.

Additionally, the MSC is conducting a review of the boards, due to be sent to the Secretary of State for Employment by the summer, which will recommend those boards which it considers should be retained.

Computer aids Welsh small firms to find local industrial services

The Polytechnic of Wales is using a computer to help companies find local industrial services in the area.

It is providing an industrial service for local businesses, financed by grants from groups including the EEC, the Manpower Services Commission, the local council and the Welsh Development Agency.

The creators of the service said: "The development of a simple-to-understand and use computer information system for local businesses to expand or expanding a business".

The computer system has been designed to provide through a data bank details of the products produced by companies in the mid-Glamorgan area.

The information is processed by a DEC computer, and the college believes that it is able to provide much of the information which is necessary for the project has cost £200,000 and there are more than 3,000 different products listed, all of which are produced locally.

The polytechnic hopes that the system will grow to cover more companies in South Wales.

The latest development is providing a particular attraction. This is a "capacity register" which tells companies what spare machinery, tools, equipment and "capacity" is available in the area.

There are 200 companies on the list which is growing by about 40 names a week and it is hoped that by the end of next year the file will have grown to about 700.

At present 1,500 companies receive details from the capacity file, increasing over the next year to 8,000.

The polytechnic does not quote prices of hiring machinery but does it for negotiation between the parties concerned.

At present capital equipment worth between £30m and £40m

Technology News

is listed and is expected to grow to £150m.

The polytechnic said: "It means that anyone with a new idea or invention can set it designed, a prototype built, and mass-produced without having to buy a single piece of machinery. The problems which kill off 95 per cent of new ideas do not arise for cost of raising money to buy machines and factories. The drudgery of sorting out day-to-day production problems do not occur."

The unit is the invention of Salford University and the software was prepared by the Cranfield Institute of Technology, backed by ABS Computers of Woking, part of the Trafalgar House Group.

The Telepad looks something like the kitchen "memory board" used for writing shopping lists. It uses a specially adapted pen on a surface the size of a sheet of foolscap.

It is being marketed by CTS Recognition which marketed earlier versions in the United Kingdom.

The Telepad is able to recognize a full range of alphanumeric characters and the information which can be transferred through a sheet of paper automatically appears on a compact screen. This indicates if characters have been accepted.

The creators are hopeful that the pad's sensitivity could be a big selling point, for example for authenticating a signature on a cheque.

Mr John Bendall managing director of CTS Recognition said: "None of the other systems can cope with paper thickness of more than a few sheets and, in one case, paper sizes larger than A5. Furthermore Telepad is tough enough to use on the factory floor".

Bill Johnstone

There is a full understand-

W Germany leads on Gulf order

From John Huxley
Bahrain, Feb 9

British hopes of taking a lead role in the construction of the £450m Bahrain causeway have almost disappeared.

But United Kingdom contractors and suppliers are optimistic that when the contract is finally divided into manageable portions, they can win sizable sub-contracts.

The project, which is seen as one of the last big construction jobs in the Gulf will link the island of Bahrain to Saudi Arabia. It has been under consideration for about 20 years.

Government ministers said here today that talks being held with consultants and World Bank officials were expected to enable the clients to name a lead contractor within the next few months.

A consortium led by Royal Bos Kalis, of the Netherlands, and including Cleveland Bridge and Engineering (part of the Trafalgar House group), is among those being considered for the lead role. But it is understood that it is not among the front-runners. The local favourite is Hochtief of West Germany.

Several British companies have been chasing the contract for the 16-mile causeway. Among the earliest to drop out was Tarmac, the Wolverhampton-based roadwork and civil engineering group, which was part of a consortium led by Mr Adnan Khashoggi.

Last year there were two British-led groups in a list of 20 competing for the contract. One was all-British, comprising Costain, Taylor Woodrow and Redpath Dorman Long (part of British Steel).

The other was led by John Howard, the Kent-based contractor, and included Sir Alfred McAlpine as well as Japanese and American companies. Both groups dropped out of the race, in which it was becoming increasingly expensive to compete, late last year.

Meanwhile, British plant makers hope to win supply contracts for a new £160m petrochemicals complex here.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The power of Telecom

From Mr J. O. Stanley

Sir, The letters of Mr Findlay and Mr Isaacs only partially expose the problem posed by the existing Post Office Act and the new British Telecom Bill in that it specifies that any individual or company which uses British Telecom's services and acts for a third party for business reasons and at the same time uses non-PO supplied equipment, ie, computers, VDUs, etc, is in breach of the exclusive privilege or monopoly. If this clause was to be rigidly enforced, it would mean that a large number of companies and individuals are in breach of the law. Presumably, when the Bill is passed, they will all have to be licensed. It is unbelievable that a Conservative Government

should be giving such Draconian powers to British Telecom which most ensure that Britain takes a last place in the information technology revolution.

Unfortunately, most businesses which are in breach take the view that they will continue to break the law and pay no attention to the rules and regulations. This may be acceptable as a policy today, but when Mr Bean takes over in 1984 he may seek to make these conditions work and apply them arduously.

If he does, we shall certainly have arrived at Orwell's "Thought Police" in a big way.

Yours faithfully,
J. O. STANLEY,
Chairman,
Air Call Communications,
176-184 Vauxhall Bridge Road,
London, SW4 1DX,
February 2.

Effects of Nissan plan on industry

From Mr J. Wright

Sir, I note with regret the wide-spread cynicism with which some factions have greeted the Nissan company's plans for opening a plant in Britain to assemble Datsun motor cars.

I note also this time with delight, *The Times* editorial (January 31) that "there is no reason why a Nissan/Datsun investment here should be seen in any way as being different to, say, the investments by Ford and General Motors", continuing "indeed... the Japanese manufacturer would be making a far larger percentage of its cars in this country".

As a retailer of said vehicles, who has suffered years of politically induced shortages and limitations justified and encouraged by BL and Ford management, perhaps these same people will now come out with unreserved expressions of appreciation to Nissan.

If, however, this is not forthcoming are we to assume that the howl of anguish from these so-called "British" manufacturers was in fact, a political smokescreen attempting to distract the public (and others) from the true position of Britain's vehicle industry.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WRIGHT,
Triad Garages Ltd,
Eastcourt Terrace,
Goole,
February 2.

Performance of reactors

From Mr D. J. Miller

Sir, Lord Bowden's opinions (letter, February 3) on the merits of various nuclear reactor systems are well known. He is entitled to his views but the facts are a matter of record and I would like to correct some of the mis-statements in his letter. For example:

1. The letter claims that last year the best British reactor was 92nd in the world league table of performance. In fact the best reactor (indeed the two best reactors) with the highest over-life performance are British—the two Magnox reactors at Hunterston "A"—and these have continued each year to achieve load factors among the best of any reactors worldwide.

2. There are three separate designs of advanced gas cooled reactors in the United Kingdom and the design selected for construction at the two new AGR stations is that employed at Hinkley Point "B" in England and Hunterston "B" in Scotland. The construction time for each unit at Hunterston "B" was approximately eight years, not 20 years as implied by Lord Bowden.

3. The increase in costs of Hunterston "B" was only 16 per cent in real terms above the original estimate and based on this the capital and operating costs have been evaluated. This suggests that within the normal errors of estimating, the kw/hr cost from these reactors would be within 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the cost/kwhr from any other reactor system under United Kingdom conditions.

4. Performance to date from the Hunterston AGRs has been steadily improving and analysis of the reasons for the loss of output suggests that as early teething troubles are eliminated these units should achieve high operating load factors. Perhaps they may even approach those of Hunterston "A".

If Lord Bowden would like to contact me I would be happy to provide him with more detailed information on the performance of these British reactors.

D. J. MILLER,
Deputy Chairman,
South of Scotland Electricity Board,
Spear Street,
Glasgow G4 4BE.

Four years that upset the balance

From Mr J. E. O. Arnold

Sir, Mr William Shepherd's (January 23) recent splendid letter to you reminds me that I recently received the accounts of a well-known British heavy engineering company which disclosed the following figures:

1976 1979
£34m £27.4m
Average cost, 1976-1979
£1.1m per unit, 1976-1979
£1.1m per unit, 1976-1979
£1.1m per unit, 1976-1979
£1.1m per unit, 1976-1979

With a workforce 30 per cent less in numbers receiving total remuneration 30 per cent more

than the much greater workforce four years previously, and a profit of nearly £3m being turned into a near £1m loss, despite turnover increased by nearly 40 per cent, it is not a classic example of the blind ignorance and greed of present-day trade union leaders to which Mr Shepherd draws attention?

J. E. O. ARNOLD,
Middlefield,
Colby Glen,
Nr Castletown,
Isle of Man.

Opinions divided on calendars

From Mr A. C. Jarrold

Sir, Mr R. O. Leaver seeks a standard horizontal or vertical layout for calendars (February 5) but unfortunately does not give us any idea as to which he prefers.

We have recently investigated the preferences of a large number of people and found opinion to be equally divided between horizontal and vertical layout of the dates.

As one of the major publishers

of calendars sold through the retail trade we would welcome opinion on the demand for a standard layout but our present conclusion is that there is no strong feeling either way and we continue to design our calendars more with an eye to overall appearance, usually with a pictorial element, and legibility.

A. C. JARROLD,
Jarrold Colour Publications,
Broadway,
Norwich, NR3 1TR.

SGB GROUP PROFIT ADVANCE IN A DIFFICULT YEAR

Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. Neville Clifford-Jones, for the year ended 27th September, 1980.

I said in my statement last year: "I am not implying that we are in any way immune to a major downturn in the construction industry, but because of the counter-cyclical effect of our various activities, together with our wide geographical spread and because of the nature of our major activity, hire, which normally holds up well in a recession, we are at least cushioned to some extent from its worst effects". This has indeed been borne out in that we have again achieved record profits despite some slowing in the second half and despite very difficult conditions in some parts of the group.

This is a good performance, but I am sure that in the deepening recession we face an unprecedented challenge even to approach these profits in the current year.

Cash Flow

In spite of these prospects it should be remembered that we have particular defensive strengths, especially to do with cash flow. There is one item of

Year in Brief

	1980 £'000	1979 £'000
Group turnover	139,549	112,343
Group trading profit	19,368	16,553
Group profit after interest and before tax	16,283	14,514
Group profit after tax and minority interests	11,817	10,365
Shareholders' funds	58,809	45,034
Return on shareholders' funds measured by group profit before tax	27.7%	29.6%
Earnings per share measured by group profit before tax	40.1p	36.4p
Earnings per share measured by group profit after tax and minority interests	28.8p	27.5p

Cash flow which does not show in the statement of source and application of funds, and this is the depreciation provided on all our working stocks of plant and equipment used daily in the ordinary course of our business. The reason it is not shown is that a major part of this figure, running to many

millions of pounds a year, is actually required to replace lost and damaged equipment in normal trading conditions. Nevertheless, in bad times, it is not necessary to replace equipment immediately and this can generate a strong cash flow fairly quickly.

Operating Companies

In reviewing our operating companies, I would particularly like to mention certain highlights of the year's results: the strong trading performance of Scaffolding (Great Britain) Limited in both its main divisions, contracting and building equipment; the excellent showing of SGB Export Limited in increasing its direct exports by eighteen per cent despite the strengthening of the pound; the sparkling strength of one of our smaller companies, Peter Cox Limited, in both its building restoration and preservation divisions; in overseas companies, the excellent result of our joint venture in Saudi Arabia and of our South African company where profits were nearly quadrupled.

Such a good result in the prevailing climate reflects great credit to all employees of the group and the board's sincere thanks go to them.

Copies of the Annual Report, including the full Chairman's Statement, are available from The Secretary, SGB Group Limited, Micham, Surrey CR4 4TD. Tel: 01-640 3393

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 11.30 a.m. on March 17th, 1981 at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, London.

SGB GROUP



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The next hurdle for gilts

With the impression gaining ground that the Government will now hold MLR at its present level until next month's Budget, there is little left to the gilt-edged market to go for yesterday. All eyes will now be firmly fixed on the January banking figures due out this afternoon.

As far as the wholesale price figures for January went, there were relatively sharp increases in both raw material and factory gate prices. The 1.4 per cent rise in the latter was not especially bad for a month that traditionally sees the introduction of new year price increases.

The 2.6 per cent increase in input prices, however, represented the second largest increase in consecutive months. Although the rise in oil prices was the major factor, there is an explanation, not a comfort. The more important point, perhaps, is that the increase would have been that much more but for sterling's strength against the dollar.

Those advocating a lower sterling exchange rate should not forget that there is no escaping that a price of some sort will have to be set against any potential benefits in terms of competitiveness.

Meanwhile, foreign exchange markets were relatively quiet yesterday. Dollar interest rates eased a notch and Morgan Guaranty brought its prime rate down from 19 1/2 to 19 per cent. The Bundesbank's moves to drain liquidity in German markets last Friday had little impact on Deutsche mark interest rates, however.

Consortium banks
Nordic's lead on CCA

A nasty dent has been knocked in the consortium banks' case for not publishing inflation-adjusted results by the decision of Nordic Bank to do just that. Nordic, which incidentally counts the present chairman of the Association of Consortium Banks as its managing director, says it decided to publish current cost account irrespective of what the figures showed. In the event it has not fared too badly. The historic cost pretax profit of £12m drops only to £7.1m and the dividend is covered.

Nordic's argument for publishing, by interesting contrast to the refusal to do so a week ago of its close rival Scandinavian Bank, is that it does not think the figures will in any way damage its business. It is hard to disagree.

On a historic cost basis it achieves a 20 per cent growth in profits and is earning a respectable 13.2 per cent return on shareholders' equity. It also has four powerful Scandinavian banks as its shareholders.

But this is not the whole story. The essential case for banks not producing current cost accounts is that if the revised figures show losses the confidence and support of depositors would be eroded. Nordic's figures do at least justify the view that most consortium banks are currently loss-making on an inflation-adjusted basis.

While Nordic's profits do not look too bad they would have been £1.5m lower had the bank complied fully with the relevant accounting standard SSAP 16. This is because in contravention of the standard (but with the full support of its auditors Arthur Andersen) it has taken full credit for the inflationary decline in the cost of repaying its loan capital. On an SSAP 16 basis the dividend would have been uncovered to the tune of £1.1m.

This matters because Nordic has a much higher proportion of loan capital to equity than most banks. It can therefore show a proportionately larger gearing adjustment—£7.1m in its favour—than most others will be able to do. On this basis only the exceptionally profitable would have avoided current cost losses last year.

The damage to the cause of non-publication is now probably irretrievable, however. Two or three other banks are planning to publish CCA figures as well and it will not be long before depositors instead of worrying about the current cost results, will wonder what those who do not publish have to hide.

Indeed, the clearing banks with presumably just as much to fear from any loss of depositors' confidence seem to bend over

backwards to point out that their CCA profits are barely adequate to maintain their capital base, an argument we are likely to hear put even more forcibly if the windfall profits tax idea looks like becoming a reality.

● The Stock Exchange has something of a dilemma on its hands following the complaint by Hoare Govett, one of the brokers to the British Aerospace issue, about the proposed inclusion of the shares in the traded options market.

Clearly traded option dealers see BA as tailor-made to put some zip into its otherwise rather pedestrian list of blue chips given the interest building up in the shares and the rationalization factor. But although Hoare is citing technical problems in trading in BA shares it seems just as clear that those handling the issue are worried that the options business could add to the underlying price volatility during the crucial launch period.

While it is understandable that the Government should wish the issue to pass off without any adverse publicity about City professionals making killings, this is just the sort of event the traded options market has been trying to dispel since its inception.

Central Manufacturing Caparo shows its hand

Spurred on by the Takeover Panel, Caparo has finally launched a 55p a share cash bid for Central Manufacturing & Trading, topping the Hanson Trust cash offer by 12 per cent and the share exchange offer by about 5 per cent.

Considering the modest improvement over the Hanson bid which CMT rejected, it is no surprise that Caparo, which already has a 22.5 per cent stake, failed to get agreement on its own terms despite lengthy talks with CMT over the weekend.

Fending off Hanson, CMT pointed to net assets of 79p a share and—after losing money in 1979-80—a big recovery in profitability in the year to next July as well as a resumption of dividends of 4.28p gross. Some of the assumptions behind the profit forecast looked rather optimistic but all the same it seems likely that CMT will try to ward off this latest offer as well.

The important question, though, is whether Hanson will return with a higher offer. It bought most of its 13.5 per cent stake in CMT at 85p so will be reluctant to sell out and take a loss. Hanson has also taken an active interest in resuscitating CMT and like Caparo is keen to acquire its industrial services division.

However, as Hanson has shown in the past, it does not like raising its offers and with CMT closing at 54p yesterday, the market is clearly not betting on Hanson's generosity.

● Allied Breweries' decision to shut down its troublesome Ansell's operation cast further gloom yesterday over a cheerless beer sector. Significantly, however, Midlands rival Wolverhampton & Dudley added a couple of pence on the reasonable assumption that this group and Bass's M&B could profit when Allied customers are confronted in the local by alien brews.

It is also significant that the sector has seen a little selective interest of late after a long period of marked under-performance which had seen Allied itself fall 25 per cent, Guinness by almost a third and Bass by over 10 per cent.

After a year in which production dropped 3.8 per cent despite the "recession-proof" theory and ahead of a Budget which will almost certainly put greater tax burdens on an industry which has suddenly become highly price-sensitive, this may seem irrational.

But although Allied, due to report in April, has yet to pass the test, the sector has not produced any dividend cuts to date and for that reason alone has yet to lose its "defensive" tag.

There is also a feeling that after a year in which higher duties produced a lower yield thanks to the production drop the Government will not wish to kill the goose with a swinging increase, although a higher take from gaming machines could be just as painful for the big groups.

The Committee of Lloyd's continues to stumble on in its attempt to bring that insurance market's self-regulation into the twentieth century. The attempts to turn the eminently sensible recommendations of last year's Fisher Committee into practice have proved more difficult than might have been supposed.

The whole process highlights the fact that for those whose instincts are against statutory regulation, if it can possibly be avoided, the price of self-regulation is eternal vigilance.

The forces of inertia in the process of reforming self-regulatory systems are almost insurmountable. But the whole history of the regulation of financial markets is that the drift towards increasing statutory regulation is a one-way movement. The only way in which it can be slowed, or stopped for a period, is for those involved in self-administered regulation permanently to be (and to be seen to be) actively pressing for higher standards.

When the Wilson Committee reported last year, its chapters on the regulation of financial institutions made all the right points about the strengths of self-regulation and about the aspects of it that were essential if it was to command general respect for any length of time.

Self-regulation only works where "the club" has real authority and powers over its members. This was one major area where Lloyd's came unstuck. The process needs to be clear that the pattern of these super- and sub-regulatory bodies is less than ideal. The Council of the Stock

Hugh Stephenson

Self-regulation: getting the chemistry right

behaviour of the Takeover Panel has in the past been exemplary, the Committee of Lloyd's much less than satisfactory and the Council of the Stock Exchange improving from a lowly base.

Finally, the persistent administration of high standards requires the regulating body to have at least a certain minimum level of permanent staff to give continuity to the efforts of part-time committees and subcommittees.

But, while Wilson was strong on the important principles of self-regulation, it was a little less sure in its detailed practical recommendations in this area. In part, this uncertainty was the result of the actions of others. The Wilson Committee, set from the beginning of 1977 until May 1980, while it was in session, the Governor of the Bank of England took a strong initiative and twisted institutional arms in order to set up the Council for the Securities Industry. That was in March 1978, though it took most of the rest of the year before it really got off the ground.

Earlier, in February, 1977, there had been established the Joint Review Body, bringing together the Bank of England and the Department of Trade at senior official level. This body was the focus for policy and administrative decisions affecting both the securities markets and the capital markets in general.

As time passes, it seems increasingly clear that the pattern of these super- and sub-regulatory bodies is less than ideal. The Council of the Stock

Exchange is a jealously autonomous body. Yet in an undoubted way the Council for the Securities Industry is set aside it, with powers to influence but not command.

In the other areas covered by the work of the CSI (the merchant banks, the investment trusts, the insurance industry, the accountants, the clearing banks, the Confederation of British Industry, the issuing houses, the pension funds, the unit trusts and others) the direct authority of the Council is even more substantial. Only the Takeover Panel is anything like a wholly-owned subsidiary.

If the CSI is to improve its image and make for itself a permanent and useful place in the scheme of things, it will need to extend both its authority and its scope of operations.

It is, of course, a matter for judgment how far and how fast it is wise to push a voluntary development of this sort. However, time is never on the side of the friends of self-regulation. After a period when the Stock Exchange had substantially improved its self-regulatory reputation, last summer's "dawn raids" and the Stock Exchange's own unsatisfactory report on the Consolidated Gold Fields episode rekindled all the cynical assumptions about the Exchange being a club that would protect its own kind.

Institutions like the CSI can develop from tentative beginnings. If, however, it is to become the accepted "umbrella" authority for self-regulation of the City (and the securities industry in particu-

lar), while individual markets continue their own existing brands of self-regulation under its shadow, it needs to press consciously in two directions. First, it needs a broader membership and, secondly, it needs a rather more vigorous public image.

The membership question raises problems. The CSI is already a large body. It is, however, dominated by the chairman of all the City trade associations that it has in membership. The inevitable result is that in its deliberations most of the members act as mandated delegates representing vested interests.

There is nothing wrong in an organisation constituted and operating in this way. Most public bodies, after all, are of this sort. It is, however, not the right chemistry for an actively inclined regulatory body. Above all, it does not encourage a public impression of openness and objectivity.

Given the history of the CSI, it would be wrong to suggest any major change in the existing pattern of its membership. The wider public interest in the activities of the securities markets is at present represented by three lay members. The least that should be done at this stage is a substantial increase in the number of these lay members.

An extra injection of expert and regular questioning of the system in the top body would greatly increase the chances of the self-regulatory system surviving substantially intact into the next decade.

Can the multinationals measure political risk?

'American management training is based on the idea of a global economy with common standards throughout the corporate sector. Local political difficulties fit uneasily into the framework'

New York
American companies operating overseas ought to be used to political upheavals disrupting their businesses. It is not as if such disturbances happen only in Iran, where they could have been foreseen, or Central America, where instability is legend. Arguably the biggest shock to an important sector of American business in the last six months came in the form of a model parliamentary democracy when in October the Trudeau government brought out a programme to nationalize the United States dominated oil industry.

If Canada can be classed as a high political risk, it does not leave much hope for the rest of the world.

It is perhaps for this reason that growing numbers of companies are for the first time trying to create departments which will assess, quantify and monitor political developments in the countries where they operate. They are trying to measure and anticipate political problems, in the same way that financial forecasts in a business take account of the company's own cash needs but the expected growth and condition of the economy in which it operates.

If such skills can be developed it might mean that companies will no longer be surprised when things "blow up" in foreign countries—that they will learn to anticipate and manage political problems, as opposed simply to reacting to them.

Oil companies and the mineral extracting business have a long history of operating in politically sensitive areas and clashing with the governments where they operate, so their political analysis departments are among the most developed. But a study by a group of American academics recently published by the independent non-profit making New York Conference Board suggests that companies which have previously enjoyed good foreign relationships—consumer goods manufacturers, pharmaceuticals companies, chemicals manufacturers and even synthetic fibre producers—are beginning to wish they were more in touch.

So, joining Exxon, Gulf, Conoco and the other oil giants, are more widely based multinationals like Ford Motor, United Technologies, manufacturer of the Pratt and Whitney jet engine and the company where Secretary of State Mr Alexander Haig was until re-

cently president, Continental Group, rival to Metal Box in the packaging business, and Xerox. Worthy of mention, too, are independent consultancies which prepare and sell political analysis, such as Frost and Sullivan and Business International, both in New York, and Business Environmental Risk Index in Los Angeles.

For companies to create political analysis departments makes good sense. It clearly ought to be cost-effective, because even the smallest multinational has many times up in overseas installations, contracts and the like.

Companies are finding that it is not that simple, though. Collecting information is not the problem—quite the opposite. In fact, as most managers complain, they are swamped with material. The problem is to sift this material, assess which political trends will have an impact on the business and translate these concepts into management decisions which will attract top management's attention.

This may be easy enough if there is a coup or violent revolution, but it is a lot harder when on the surface things appear to be calm and when strong-minded members of the board are convinced that they have a "feel" for a particular country and therefore disregard any reports which suggest that all may not be well.

The irony is that coups happen rarely, even in these days, and anyway such changes of government often matter little if they are essentially a palace revolution or, conversely, if by then conditions have already deteriorated.

Events which have the biggest impact on companies are often much less dramatic, as for example when governments seek to change the rules on

repatriation of profits, suddenly require local participation in management or demand local assembly of complicated manufactured goods. All these can transform the economics of a subsidiary.

Nor are changes necessarily for the worse. A Third World government may be prepared to grant generous investment incentives or a local monopoly to a multinational prepared to invest on its shores, in which case the plan may well go to the company's advantage to spot the mood and get in there first.

It is clear in this area at least that skilled political assessments can help to give a competitive edge.

The problem in this age of scientific management is that companies do not know how to handle the art of political analysis. It cuts across disciplines and operating divisions and it has no recognized place in the management hierarchy. Understandably, there is a wide diversity of approach.

The most common, and perhaps the most potentially troublesome, is to rely on the management of a local subsidiary to keep head office informed of political developments. But this ignores the fact that the nationals will have their own political prejudices and may also be reluctant to appear disloyal or to run down their own country.

On a more practical level they may worry for their own future if they put criticisms into writing which may get back to their leaders or if they paint too black a picture which might prompt the parent to pull out or at least not to expand. Nor

do they want to get a reputation for "negative thinking", which is easily done, as head offices, like Cleopatra, appear to dislike the bearer of bad news.

Further complicating matters is the American tendency to switch expatriate managers rapidly from one country to another, which means that while they may be able to give an objective assessment they are rarely sufficiently integrated into the community for this to be perceptive. So there is a vacuum which is filled when the chief executive makes a flying visit to the subsidiary and talks to a few political leaders. His conclusions then become company policy.

"In practice," the director of a computer company said, "it comes down to whether my prejudices about a place are stronger than his prejudices." A further question concerns who should do the job. Because it is a new art, companies are still sceptical about it, so they rarely allocate a top executive. But, by putting someone junior in charge, they make it easy to dismiss his report as naive or showing lack of experience and as a result the department loses credibility.

"It is a question of insight and authority," says the vice-president of a pharmaceuticals company, "noting common reservation. Unless I can get people with sufficient insight and authority based on their experience with this company, an assessment unit really would not have much value."

There is a real problem of organization. Typically someone in the treasurer's depart-

ment will keep track of foreign currency movements, someone on the strategic planning staff may look at long-term political trends; and a third person in corporate finance may assess political risks in so far as these affect the expected rate of return on investment in different countries.

There is much in common between these three functions, but the amount of coordination is likely to be minimal, as pulling them all together would tread on too many toes.

In the cases where senior personnel have been put in charge of these operations, it has often been for the wrong reasons—to "kick someone sideways"—so that they no longer block the main management channel—or, as with former public relations executives, because they are noted for their skill in getting on with different department heads, a quality which overrides reservations about their knowledge of politics.

It is perhaps not a surprising tendency therefore for companies to use outside analysts to overcome the internal problems of credibility and accountability. But there is little so far to suggest that such firms know enough about either the company or the countries concerned to provide analysis of high enough quality to affect decision making. If anything, it serves to undermine the value of the discipline.

Perhaps the biggest problem, though, is that identifying political trends makes business even more complicated, by introducing a host of vague and unquantifiable concepts. Much of the network of common American management training is based on the idea of a global economy with the best business being those which are organized on a global basis, with common standards throughout the network. Local political difficulties fit uneasily into this framework and, in the short run at least, it is still too easy for companies to ignore emerging political changes rather than face up and adapt to them.

Anthony Hilton

Business Diary: Figuring it out • Hell hath no fury...

If the public feuding between Roland "Tiny" Rowland and Sir Hugh Fraser has cost House of Fraser shareholders an estimated £2m, the total bill for Fraser's fighting off Lorrho's £158m takeover bid could be substantially more.

Leaving aside the fees of stockbrokers Cazenove and merchant bankers S. G. Warburg, a long-awaited revaluation of the group's 111 stores plus Harrod is costing the group another £6,000 or so a day since it was commissioned seven months ago.

This juicy plum has fallen to estate valuers, Conrad Riblat, advisers to the House of Fraser for many years and now fashioning the bargepole with which Fraser will attempt to fend off the overseas trader.

Estate agents rarely discuss the vulgar subject of fees, but the minimum laid down as a guide by their own professional body recommends 0.25 per cent of the total revalued figure for most of the freehold properties which make up the bulk of Fraser's fixed assets.

Unofficial estimates put the value of those fixed assets at £460m, although the Fraser board stresses that the valuation is not yet complete. Some in the City estimate the eventual figure to be nearer 350p a share, or £327m, which would increase Conrad Riblat's fee to £8,627 a day.

Some say that he should not have kept a lady waiting, others that he had it coming anyway. Whatever the reason, the future is not as bright as it was for Lloyd Axworthy.

Axworthy is Canada's Minister for Employment and Immigration and, until now, a contender for the leadership of the Liberals when Pierre Trudeau, Canada's Prime Minister, steps down—possibly two years from now.

Like Trudeau, Axworthy is variously described by commentators as "young" and "good looking" (ladies, judge for yourself from the official photograph I reproduce here) and is indisputably ambitious.

Unlike Trudeau, however, he got on the wrong side of Doris Anderson, the novelist and journalist, that she resigned from her \$46,000 a year job as president of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

It was all over her wish to hold a national women's conference on the constitution this month. Axworthy said that it should be postponed, as it would otherwise collide with a cliffhanger of a Commons debate on Trudeau's plans for unisex constitutional reform.

● The directors of Leigh Carter Warehouses in Essex are having a lot of fun at the expense of the Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order 1979 and competitors who are seeking devious ways around it.

The order seeks to ban misleading bargain offers by specifying the sort of price comparisons that cannot be made. The effect, in the furniture and carpet trades



Doris Anderson

Mrs Anderson refused, but her counsel sided with Axworthy and voted to put off the conference until May. Mrs Anderson thereupon resigned.

For Axworthy it was a case of winning a battle but losing the war. Few would now give him much chance of winning the Liberal leadership. Party faithfuls would be scared of alienating the women's vote.

Axworthy himself admits that it has hurt his career. In her two years as council president Mrs Anderson emerged as a battler for women's rights, particularly economic rights. She criticized a



Lloyd Axworthy

system in which working women are paid on the average only about half as much as men and campaigned for the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

She championed the right of bank workers (mostly women) to form unions and pressed for government retraining to help women reenter the workforce after raising families.

Mrs Anderson, who is 55 and is supporting two sons, says that she means to stay in public life. The last time she stopped working, she said, "I almost went out of my mind with boredom."

Price—the price we would charge for the horrid pink no-body buys" and "90 per cent off NYPM" refers to "Next year's price maybe."

Leigh says that its local trading standards officer has told it that its advertisements are "quite within the law because retailers can advertise any sort of special order price or after sales price without having to justify them."

● Mike Henderson, managing director of Jell & Co., tells me (over an appropriate dram) that there is both good and bad news about Britain's favourite moneybox.

This favourite I take to be the characteristic three-sided Dimple scotch bottle, which is I remember held up to £40 worth of sippers and about as much in threepenny bits.

The good news is that Dimple 12-year-old goes back on sale in this country on Monday after a three-year absence. The bad news is that the bottle, although the same shape, has a narrower neck, so that of the new-fangled decimal coins it will take only "half pence"—about 77 worth all told, which by the time you have saved it up, would not even buy you a Dimple bottle full of Dimple.

DCL, Haig's parent group, withdrew Dimple from the United Kingdom market after the EEC objected to its being sold wholesale at 33p a bottle more in Europe than in the United Kingdom.

Haig was reluctant to scale down this price, which covered the costs of European agents, and because the then Price Commission could not bump up the United Kingdom price.

But the Price Commission is now no more and, Henderson says, there is a market here for Dimple Scotch at £11 a time. Presumably, the children of parents who can afford that sort of money do not save their pocket money anyway—they probably invest it.

Ross Davies

Nordic Bank

Highlights from the Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1980

	1980 £'000	1979 £'000
Profit before Taxation	12,006	10,005
Share Capital and Reserves	53,579	48,359
Total Capital Funds	137,325	135,462
Deposits	1,251,578	1,040,083
Loans and Advances	832,218	759,217
Total Assets	1,441,202	1,227,062

Nordic Bank Limited

Nordic Bank Limited
Nordic Bank House
20 St. Dunstan's Hill
London EC3R 8HY
Tel: 01-621 1111
Telex: 887654

Shareholding Banks

Copenhagen Handelsbank Copenhagen
Den norske Creditbank Oslo
Kansallis-Osake-Pankki Helsinki
Svenska Handelsbanken Stockholm

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from the Secretary's office

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Three-week account starts quietly

Prices held up reasonably well on the first day of the three-week account yesterday, despite firm hints that a cut in the Minimum Lending Rate will be delayed until the Budget.

Most of the activity came from speculative buying and special situations, with much of the strength sapped from leading equities by the group of economic results due this week. January's rise in the wholesale price indices of 1.4 per cent was at the top end of the worst forecast figures. This swayed both gilts and leading equities to close a quiet day at easier prices.

Gilts, resigned to the Budget for the eagerly-awaited cut, opened cautiously, down £1. Longs recovered from the initial £1 drop, to ease back only £1 lower at the close, helped by one 1 per cent coupon in prime rate by the United States bank, Morgan Guaranty, to 19 per cent. Shorts reported two-way trade during the day, with prices slipping back after the price indices figures. With the new Government £1,000m tap still in hand, shorts closed £16 to £17 down.

Gilts are looking to today's banking figures for further evidence that inflation is under control. The retail price index figure is announced on Friday.

The FT Index, down 2.1 points to 478.8 at noon, recovered to close at 480.9, up 0.6 points on Friday's close.

After a cautious start, leading equities ended the day easier, but with a firm undertone, though the market is still thin. Heavy Swiss buying in Dunlop has renewed speculative interest and boosted the price to 4p above the year's low, at 61p. Some 3m shares are believed to have changed hands at 61p. Increased speculation

that Bowater has struck lucky with its oil interests added 7p to the shares at 199p.

Elsewhere in the sector, blue chips shed a couple of pence. ICI gave up 2p to 234p. Glaxo dropped 4p to 364p. Unilever fell 4p to 456p, but ICI added 4p to 370p.

Electricals were not able to keep the upward trend set in Friday's after-hours trading. Many of the leaders, such as GEC, Racal and Rank went ex 1p or so easier as there was little investment buying reported.

Press comment boosted MK Electric 9p to 193p and Electronic Rentals added 4p to 99p.

Is Newport about to sell off its 6 per cent of William Press and allow in a possible bidder? Yesterday the share price of Press rose 3p to 33p. The prospect also appeared attractive to Newport where the shares rose 13p to 355p.

on news of reorganization plans. Otherwise, GEC dropped 3p to 633p and Plessey was unchanged at 296p. STC, Unitec and Parnell saw no movement.

Electronic Machine were unchanged at 49p after interim results. Mithell added another 2p to 103p on continued bid speculation.

Little investment buying was reported in engineering where prices ended again on an easier level. An optimistic view was taken of financial backing prospects for Dupont and shares added 3p to 10p. Otherwise, Brown gave up 2p to 71p, GKN dropped 1p to 143p and Vespene yielded 2p to 96p. Powell Duffryn were able to add 4p to 249p.

News that Caparo has finally come forward with a counter

bid for Central Manufacturing & Trading sent CMT up 3p to 54p—5p above the cash price of 49p offered by Hanson Trust last November. Shares in Alcan, the British Aluminium of Canadian Alcan, returned from suspension more than doubled at 111p. The Canadian parent offered 120p a share for 22 per cent of its subsidiary, valued at £12.2m.

Argyll Foods returned to the market at 120p from suspension price at 79p followed the Oriel acquisition. After Savoy Hotel's plans to sell off some rooms, it gained 6p to 122p. Speculative buying added 7p to 112p at Edward Jones, Owen Owen rose 7p to 131p and Peters added 10p to 110p.

Press comment saw 4p added to Pegler-Hattersley at 140p, 11p to Guinness Peat at 124p and Howard Thomas at 6p to 66p. Adverse comments saw 8p shed from Kalamazoo to 60p and Dewy down 5p to 199p. And last Friday's raid on Howard Machinery by the US Diamond Industries for a 15 per cent stake added a 1p to 24p on the news had settled. Allied dropped a 1p to 634p on news of the Midlands closure.

There is still a shortage of stock in properties, and shares continued last week's upward trend, even though most dealers are discounting any hopes of immediate MLR cuts. Hammer added 5p to 540p, MEPC rose 5p to 240p, Haslemere was up 4p to 398p and Stock Convertible remained unchanged at 350p.

Shares remained apprehensive over a possible "windfall" profits tax and banking figures. Barclays were unchanged at 383p, Nat West stayed at 363p but Midland dropped 2p to 318p. Lloyds held at 343p.

Among financials, RP Martin

jumped 10p to 163p on interim results, while speculative support lifted Provident 6p to 131p. Lloyds and Scottish added 1p to 148p and Mercantile House was unchanged at 605p.

The oil market generally trended up, but Commercial Union shed 1p to 153p, Gen Acc dropped 2p to 300p and others in the sector were unchanged.

The oil market generally strengthened with hopes from the latest drilling reports adding 31p to Premier at 103p and 20p to 198p at Strada, Roama added 22p to 132p in sympathy. Shell put on 2p to 412p and Tricel also rose 2p to 324p.

A quiet day was reported by dealers in mining finance

Shares of Sidlow Industries jumped 3p to 115p yesterday, amid reports that M & G Group had increased its stake to about 10 per cent, following the acquisition of around 90,000 shares at the market price.

houses, with shares ending firmer across the sector. Hopes were for a steady gold price. The bullion rate rose to \$517 during the day, but closed at \$516.5, a rise of \$14 from Friday's close. Consolidated Gold recovered lost ground to add 3p to 426p and the United States prime rate rate cut helped others to gather a few pence. Anglo American Gold added a 1p to 401p, RTZ was 3p dearer at 373p, but Lomax which went ex dividend, shed 4p to 103p.

Equity turnover for February 6 was £131.28m (bargeant 18,558). Active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Argyll Foods, Lomax, Bowater, GEC, Allied Breweries, Unilever, R. Becham and Lashco.

Traded options: Dealers reported a total of 758 contracts on a wide spread of companies. Lomax again attracted the most with 144, ICI took 44, and 44 were placed with Racal, 6 with RTZ and 43 with Consolidated Gold.

Traditional options: Dealers reported quiet conditions with calls in ICI, Dunlop, Euroferries, Dunlop, Woodside, Premier and Town and City. Doubles were arranged in BSG and FNFC.

G M Firth statement as share price leaps

By Our Financial Staff
Sharp share price movements in G. M. Firth (Metals), the Bradford steel stockholders and property developers, forced the board to put out an early explanatory statement yesterday.

The statement said simply: "The directors announce that they are currently engaged in

discussions, which, if successful, will considerably enlarge the trading operations of the group."

A week ago Firth's shares stood at 37p but the price rose steadily last week to 43p and yesterday they jumped to 56p prompting a call from the company's brokers, Rowe & Pim, suggesting that some kind of statement ought to be made.

Talk in the market before the statement suggested either a takeover bid for Firth or a property revaluation. The latter theory was based upon comments by Mr Gerard Leadbeater, the chairman, in the last annual report that the share price was too low relative to the company's assets.

At this stage it is unclear when a full announcement about the deal will be made. It is, however, an acquisition within the company's existing trading areas.

Mystery of 7pc stake in Evered

By Peter Wilson-Smith
The emergence of a mysterious 7.5 per cent nominee shareholding in Evered, the loss-making West Midlands engineering group, has placed a further obstacle in the way of the agreed 22p-a-share bid from Francis Industries.

The shares are held by Investat (Nominees), a subsidiary of stockbrokers Hoare, Govett & Co. A spokesman for Hoare, Govett said that the shares were bought on the instructions of another agent and Hoare, Govett did not know who the beneficial owner or owners were. However, they had thought it best to notify the company of the stake.

Part of the Investat holding, recently increased by 50,000 to 441,250 shares, appears to have come from Britannic Assurance which sold the remains of its stake in Evered earlier this month at prices averaging about 2p.

Although the directors of Evered have reluctantly recommended the Francis terms, shares in Evered have consistently traded above the offer price and longstanding Arab shareholders in Evered have been increasing their stake in Evered at prices up to 25p.

Between them Zahid Industries and Investments and associates and Mohamed Mahmoud Ezzat own 29.95 per cent. In the 410p-a-share indicated by the Turnbull Scott offer, he based his comment on recent

valuations of the group's ships by sale-and-purchase brokers.

He said that the group was considering its position and would be writing to shareholders shortly in connexion with both bids. Hunting Gibson's offer was for 335p a share, and Turnbull Scott's 400p, valuing Stag at £4.9m. The shares rose 17p to 42p yesterday, indicating that Hunting Gibson may increase its offer, or that a third bidder was due to emerge.

Stag Line, the dry-cargo shipping group, has come out against the Turnbull Scott bid which last week capped an earlier offer from Hunting Gibson.

In a letter to shareholders, Mr Nicholas Robinson, the Stag chairman, said that the group's net asset value, after estimating for tax, was materially higher than the 410p-a-share indicated by the Turnbull Scott offer. He based his comment on recent

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No final after £2m loss at Manchester Ship Canal

By Michael Prest

Higher spending and depressed trading pushed Manchester Ship Canal into operating losses of £2.09m last year. In 1979 the company made profits of £1.06m. The directors recommend that the final dividend should be passed.

Although full details have not yet been released, it is clear that the volume of business has been disappointing. But Mr Donald Redford, the chairman, declined to comment yesterday ahead of a full statement.

Not all the figures were bad. The profit on the sale of the sale of £22,000 against a 1979 loss of £6,000, and the surplus on land sales over valuation was £23,000 instead of £7,000.

Against the trend common to many companies, Manchester Ship Canal cut interest charges from £652,000 to £609,000. After the operating loss of

£2.09m, this yielded a loss before exceptional items of £979,000. In 1979 profits at this stage were £1.78m.

But the after-tax loss was much worse than the operating

loss. Voluntary severance payments, reflecting 300 redundancies caused by the decline in trading, came to £781,000. To that must be added an accelerated depreciation charge of £1.33m. No depreciation charge was incurred in 1979.

The full impact of these costs was partly offset, however, by a tax credit of £443,000, compared with a payment in 1979 of £700,000. Final losses were therefore £2.65m.

Earnings per share collapsed from 25.1p in 1979 to a loss last year of 74.2p. Although they recommended a gross interim dividend of 10.7p, the directors have passed the final. In 1979 the final was 15.5p gross.

First-half pretax profits slumped from almost £2m in 1979 to £356,000. High dredging costs and the switch of traffic to the East coast were blamed. After the second-half slump, the shares fell 8p yesterday to 188p.

Mr Donald Redford, chairman at Manchester Ship Canal.

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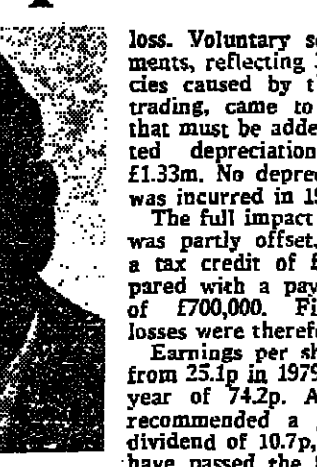
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Briefly

Barclays International: Barclays Bank International has opened a new branch in Seattle, under a Federal branch licence. Last week Barclays International opened an agency in Miami. The Seattle branch will concentrate on corporate business, particularly international trade. In the Pacific Northwest, the company has agencies in Portland, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska, an area which has experienced strong economic growth over recent years.

Murray Caledonian Investment Trust: Pretax revenue for half-year to December 31, 1980, £367,000 (£311,000). As known, interim dividend is doubled.

Winterbottom Trust: NAV at February 6, 1981, 371.5p after deduction of prior charges at par and 34.6p, after deduction of prior charges at market values.

Barclay: Barclay's offer for preference shares of Hensher (Future Traded) has closed on February 23. Barclay owns 30.57 per cent of the preference.

Electronic Rentals: Following an extensive review of the operations of its subsidiaries, Europacure and Dudes (UK), Electronic Rentals has decided in principle to restructure the company and dispose of the general clothing activities of these two companies.

Country Properties and Development: Glasgow-based private company is planning to increase its bid for Glasgow Picture House. The move follows the announcement that Glasgow Photo Play House, which owns 38 per cent of Picture House and had made an offer for the rest which expired at the beginning of the month, is about to make a further bid. County's offer was for 875p a share, putting a value of about £220,000 on the company.

Burnett & Hallamshire Holding's subsidiary, UK Petroleum Products, has purchased the business of Clift Oil of Midland. Kent Clift is a Gulf branded distributor of domestic, industrial and automotive fuels operating throughout Kent, including the M20way station as well as South East London B & H's oil division is the largest independent distributor of middle distillates in the United Kingdom but the acquisition of Clift marks the division's first entry into the South East of England.

Dura Mill: Turnover for half-year to September 30, 1980, £11.04 (£9,400,000). Profits, £899 (£827) after tax of £457 (£430).

Fitch Lovell: Fitch Lovell's offer for Joseph Stott and Sons (Holdings) is unconditional and remains open. Fitch now owns 97.1 per cent.

Record Rideway: Agreement reached with Mabey and Johnson for purchase by Mabey of a subsidiary of Record which is continuing the drop-forging business previously carried on by Hatt. Forgings. Price: £480,000.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investments: The South African mining finance house, increases interim attributable profits to R53.1m (£29.5m) from R42.1m but the directors say that earnings per share, which rose from 414 cents to 696 cents, are unlikely to grow further in the second half. A dividend of 13 cents (compared with 100 cents has been declared).

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank 14%
Barclays 14%
BCCI 14%
Consolidated Credits 14%
C. Hoare & Co 14%
Lloyds Bank 14%
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* 7 day deposit on basis of £10,000 and up to £100,000 over £10,000

Commercial Banking

Commercial Banking Co of Sydney reports a Consolidated operating profit at SA15.37m (£9.25m) against SA16.49m on turnover at SA237m against SA223.67m for the six months to December 31.

The result was after tax of SA3.83m against SA2.96m, interest at SA13.79m compared with SA10.95m, and an extraordinary

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous day

SALES

Salerooms and Antiques



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Telex 916429 Telegrams CHRISTIART
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Today, Tuesday, February 10 at 11 a.m.
ENGLISH DRAWINGS AND WATERCOLOURS. Catalogue £2.
Wednesday, February 11 at 10.30 a.m.
CLOCKS AND WATCHES, HOROLOGICAL BOOKS AND BAROMETERS. Catalogue £1.75.
Thursday, February 12 at 11 a.m.
ENGLISH FURNITURE. Catalogue £1.75.
Friday, February 12 at 11 a.m.
FINE WINES, mainly from private cellars. Catalogue 65p.
Thursday, February 12 at 2.30 p.m.
FINE EASTERN TEXTILES, RUGS AND CARPETS. Catalogue £3.
Friday, February 13 at 11 a.m.
JAPANESE IVORY CARVINGS, NETSUKE AND INRO. Catalogue £2.
Tuesday, February 17 at 11 a.m.
ENGLISH AND FOREIGN SILVER. Catalogue £1.25.
Tuesday, February 17 at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, IRISH AND FOREIGN COINS. Catalogue £1.50.

OVERSEAS SALES
IN HOLLAND
AT ROTTERDAM, 10 AMSTERDAM
Thursday, February 12 at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.
METALWORK. Catalogue £3.
IN JAPAN
AT THE HOTEL OKURA, TOKYO
Thursday, February 14 at 7 p.m.
IMPRESSIONIST AND MODERN PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS.
Sunday, February 15 at 10.30 a.m.
MODERN PRINTS. Catalogue for both the above sales £3.
Sunday, February 15 at 2 p.m.
CHINESE CERAMICS AND WORKS OF ART.
Sunday, February 15 at 4.30 p.m.
JAPANESE CERAMICS, LACQUER AND WORKS OF ART AND BERNARD LEACH POTTERY. Catalogue for both the above sales £3.

IN ROME
AT THE PALAZZO MASSIMO LANCELOTTI
Wednesday, February 25 at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.
COINS. Catalogue £2.
All catalogue prices are post paid.
All sales subject to the conditions printed in the catalogues.
For details of sales at Christie's South Kensington, please contact: 85 Old Brompton Road, London, S.W.7. Tel: (01) 581 2231.

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Northern Ireland:
John Lewis-Crosby, Tel: (0266) 830574
Isle of Man:
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Channel Islands:
Richard de la Hay, Tel: (0534) 77582

Phillips

Tuesday, 10 February, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART
Tuesday, 10 February, 1.30 p.m.
ANTIQUE AND MODERN JEWELLERY
Wednesday, 11 February, 11 a.m.
ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL PORCELAIN
AND GLASS
Wednesday, 11 February, 12 noon
DOLLS AND DOLLS' HOUSES
Viewing: Day prior and morning of sale until 11 a.m.
Illustrated Catalogue 75p by post.
Thursday, 12 February, 10 a.m.
FINE FURS
Including Blacklamb mink coats by Pierre Cardin; fox by Gucci; Russian sable by Maximilian; hats by Rudolf
Viewing: Tuesday 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Catalogue 50p by post.
Thursday, 12 February, 11 a.m.
POSTAGE STAMPS: WHOLESALE AND TRADE
Catalogue 50p by post.
Friday, 13 February, 11 a.m.
SILVER AND GOLD BOXES AND MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTOR'S ITEMS
Illustrated Catalogue £1.50 by post.
Monday, 16 February, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND OBJECTS
Monday, 16 February, 11 a.m.
WATERCOLOURS
Tuesday, 17 February, 11 a.m.
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART
Tuesday, 17 February, 12 noon
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Cat. (75 illus.) £1

Tuesday 10th February at 11 am
PRINTED BOOKS Cat. (9 illus.) £1

Tuesday 10th February at 2 pm
ENGLISH POTTERY AND PORCELAIN
Cat. £1

Wednesday 11th February at 10.30 am
FINE WINES AND VINTAGE PORT Cat. £1

Thursday 12th February at 10.30 am
GOLD BOXES, EUROPEAN AND SOUTH AMERICAN SILVER Cat. (117 illus.) £1.50

Thursday 12th February at 10.30 am
JEWELS Cat. (23 illus.) £1

Friday 13th February at 10.30 am
ORIENTAL RUGS AND CARPETS
and at 11 am
ENGLISH OAK FURNITURE AND TREES
Cat. (11 illus.) £1

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Cat. (45 illus.) £2

Belgravia
Sotheby's Belgravia, 19 Motcomb Street, London SW1X 8LB Telephone: (01) 235 4311

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Tuesday 17th February at 11 am
VICTORIAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS AND WATERCOLOURS Cat. (65 illus.) £1

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Tuesday 17th February at 11.30 am
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Friday 20th February at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm
EUROPEAN AND ORIENTAL CERAMICS, GLASS AND WORKS OF ART Illus. Cat. £1.50

Torquay
Sotheby's Barne, Rainbow, Torquay, Devon TQ2 5TG Telephone: (0803) 26277

Wednesday 18th February at 10 am
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